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Vance warns Iran ahead of high-stakes Pakistan peace talks

Vance departs for Pakistan talks, warns Iran against undermining fragile ceasefire

WASHINGTON

US Vice President JD Vance on Friday issued a strong warning to Iran as he departed for negotiations in Pakistan, expressing cautious optimism over ongoing diplomatic efforts amid the West Asia crisis.

Speaking to reporters, Vance said the United States remained open to constructive dialogue but cautioned against any attempts to derail the process. The remarks come after Washington and Tehran agreed to a fragile two-week ceasefire following weeks of conflict.

The vice president noted that President Donald Trump had laid down clear guidelines for the talks, emphasising both diplomacy and firmness.

If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand. If they try to play us, the negotiating team will not be receptive.

—JD Vance, US Vice President

While the ceasefire has raised hopes for de-escalation, tensions persist, particularly with continued violence involving Israel and developments in Lebanon. Conflicting interpretations of ceasefire terms by the parties have further complicated the situation.

Vance said he was hopeful of "positive negotiations" but acknowledged the challenges ahead. Analysts note that Pakistan's role as a mediator could be crucial, though sustaining long-term peace will depend on mutual trust and compliance.

The upcoming talks are being closely watched as a potential turning point in the ongoing regional conflict.

Vance team led talks with Iran before war

US Vice President JD Vance is joined by President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner, both of whom previously engaged in three rounds of indirect negotiations with Iranian officials. The talks focused on addressing US concerns over Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, as well as its support for proxy groups in West Asia. These diplomatic efforts took place before the United States and Israel launched military action against Iran on February 28, marking the beginning of the ongoing conflict.

Nitish Kumar takes Rajya Sabha oath, Bihar set for new CM

NEW DELHI

Veteran leader Nitish Kumar on Friday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha, marking a significant political transition and paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister in Bihar.

The oath was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan during a brief ceremony held in his chamber in New Delhi. The event was attended by several prominent leaders, including Bihar Deputy Chief Ministers Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary, along with BJP president J. P. Nadda.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal were also present. Leaders across party lines, including JD(U)'s working president Sanjay Kumar Jha and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, attended the ceremony, reflecting the significance of the moment.

I have accomplished a lot of work in Bihar. Now I feel I should focus on responsibilities here in Delhi

—Nitish Kumar, RS MP

Kumar's move to the Rajya Sabha signals his imminent resignation as Bihar Chief Minister, a position he has held for multiple terms, making him the state's longest-serving leader.

Speaking ahead of the transition, he stated that he had accomplished much of his work in Bihar and now intends to focus on responsibilities at the national level.

"I will step down in a few days. New leadership will take over," Kumar said, indicating that a new Chief Minister and cabinet are likely to be announced soon.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is expected to elect the next Chief Minister around April 14, setting the stage for a new political chapter in Bihar.

Amit Shah invokes Rabindranath Tagore in BJP Bengal manifesto

BJP PROMISES WELFARE PUSH, UCC, AND LAW-AND-ORDER REFORMS IN BENGAL

KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday unveiled the BJP's election manifesto for West Bengal, invoking Rabindranath Tagore's iconic vision of a fearless society to frame the party's roadmap for the state.

This manifesto is a path to bring every section of Bengal out of despair. The people are frightened and disillusioned, and they want change from the hear.

—Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Launching the "Sankalp Patra," Shah said the manifesto draws inspiration from Tagore's "Where the Mind is Without Fear," presenting it as a blueprint for restoring confidence and development in Bengal. He sharply criticised the 15-year rule of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, calling it a "period of darkness" marked by fear and stagnation.

- **Financial Aid:** ₹3,000/month for women
- **UCC Timeline:** Within 6 months
- **7th Pay Commission:** Within 45 days
- **DA Promise:** For employees and pensioners
- **Key Focus:** Law & order, anti-infiltration
- **Probe Plan:** Commission on political violence
- **Election Dates:** April 23 & 29

The BJP also announced plans to constitute a commission led by a retired Supreme Court judge to probe political violence in the state and introduce White Papers addressing corruption and law-and-order issues.

Positioning the manifesto as a "pledge of trust," the BJP aims to revive Bengal's cultural legacy while promising governance reforms ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

The manifesto outlines key promises, including ₹3,000 monthly financial assistance for women, implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) within six months, and rollout of the 7th Pay Commission within 45 days of forming the government. Shah also pledged to ensure Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees and pensioners.

Emphasising national security and governance, Shah reiterated a "zero tolerance" stance on illegal infiltration and cow smuggling, promising stricter border control measures.

Justice Varma quits as impeachment proceedings intensify over alleged cash controversy

Yashwant Varma resigns amid cash row, impeachment proceedings

NEW DELHI

In a dramatic turn of events, Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court has resigned amid mounting pressure from impeachment proceedings linked to a controversial cash recovery case.

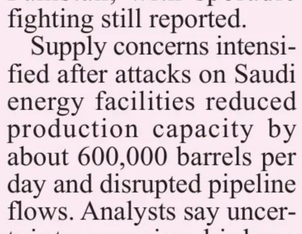
The resignation, sent to the President, comes nearly a year after allegations surfaced regarding unaccounted cash reportedly discovered at his official residence in Delhi following a fire incident. The controversy had triggered widespread political and legal debate, eventually leading to formal proceedings seeking his removal.

The issue dates back to March last year, when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's residence. During firefighting operations, large stacks of cash were allegedly found, intensifying scrutiny. However, Justice Varma has consistently denied the claims, asserting that no such recovery took place.

Earlier, then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna ordered an in-house inquiry and transferred Varma from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court, while also withdrawing his judicial duties pending investigation.

As the matter escalated, over 140 Lok Sabha members supported an impeachment motion. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla subsequently constituted a three-member inquiry panel under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 to examine the allegations.

Responding to the charges, Varma questioned the basis of the proceedings, stating, "Why should I be impeached if officials failed to secure the site?" He maintained that he was not present during the incident and could not be held accountable for lapses by authorities.



Oil prices rise amid Saudi disruptions, Hormuz blockade

BEIJING/SINGAPORE

Global oil prices climbed on Friday as concerns deepened over disrupted supplies from Saudi Arabia and continued restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy shipments.

Brent crude rose nearly 1% to $96.88 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures gained 0.8% to $98.65. The uptick comes despite a fragile two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States, brokered by Pakistan, with sporadic fighting still reported.

Supply concerns intensified after attacks on Saudi energy facilities reduced production capacity by about 600,000 barrels per day and disrupted pipeline flows. Analysts say uncertainty remains high as tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz continues at less than 10% of normal volumes.

The waterway, a critical artery for global oil and gas trade, has been effectively choked since the conflict escalated in late February. Iran has reportedly asserted control over shipping routes, raising fears of prolonged disruption.

Three Killed in Hulikal Ghat Landslide, CM Announces ₹5 Lakh Relief

SHIVAMOGGA

Three labourers were killed and four others injured after a landslide struck a road construction site at Hulikal Ghat in Karnataka's Shivamogga district, police said on Friday. The incident occurred late Thursday afternoon at a hairpin bend in Hosanagara taluk during ongoing road widening and retaining wall work. The deceased have been identified as Raghavendra, Raju, and Shabbir, who were engaged in building a protective wall along the ghat stretch. Rescue teams, including personnel from the police, fire services, and an SDRF unit from Mangaluru, rushed to the location and launched an intensive operation.

Four injured workers were pulled out and shifted to hospitals in Kundapura and Udupi for treatment. The Hulikal Ghat section is known for its steep curves and landslide-prone terrain. The construction work was aimed at improving road safety by building retaining walls along vulnerable stretches. CM Siddaramaiah expressed grief over the tragedy and announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

"I am deeply saddened to hear about the loss of lives. I pray for the departed souls and strength to their families," he said, adding that he had spoken to District In-charge Minister Madhu Bangarappa to review the situation.

HDK accuses CM of 'betrayal', questions morality

MYSURU

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Friday intensified his criticism of Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, questioning his moral authority and accusing him of political betrayal and misuse of power.

Addressing the media in Mysuru, Kumaraswamy alleged that Siddaramaiah had no right to criticise "family politics," claiming that the CM had allowed his son to engage in alleged "collection" activities. He contrasted this with his own son's entry into politics, which he said was driven by public support. Digging into the past, Kumaraswamy recalled events following the 1999 elections, claiming Siddaramaiah had once considered quitting politics and was supported by JD(S) leadership. He further accused the CM of "stabbing the party in the back" in 2006 by leveraging the AHINDA (minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) platform.

Challenging Siddaramaiah's political standing, Kumaraswamy dared him to leave the Congress and prove his strength independently. He also predicted internal dissent within the ruling party, suggesting that several leaders were waiting for Siddaramaiah to falter.

MISSING TEEN TRAGEDY

Missing Kerala girl found dead near Manikyadhara Falls

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A girl from Kerala who had gone missing near the Manikyadhara Falls in Chikkamagaluru district has been found dead in a mountainous area nearby.

According to reports, the 15-year-old girl, identified as Sreenanda from Palakkad district in Kerala, had gone missing on April 7. A search operation had been underway for the past four days.

During the search, a team approaching from the Arishinaguppe side discovered her body in the hill range near Manikyadhara. The body has been shifted to the district hospital, a rural police officer informed.

Her body was found at a depth of nearly 2,000 feet in the Chandradrona hill range. Sreenanda had visited Manikyadhara Falls with her family and went missing around 5:15 PM on April 7. Before her disappearance, she had recorded reels on her father's mobile phone and taken photos with her family at the location.

According to the complaint filed by her father, while the family descended to view the falls, Sreenanda stayed back on top of the hill. When they returned about 10 minutes later, she was missing. After searching the surrounding area unsuccessfully, the family alerted local police.

As the girl could not be traced for three days, Western Range IGP Amit Singh visited the spot and reviewed the situation with Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama, intensifying the search efforts.

Over 70 personnel from the forest department, police, and fire services were involved in the operation. Sniffer dogs, drones, and thermal drones were deployed, along with support from the SDRF team.

The grieving family is devastated by the loss. Police are continuing their investigation to determine whether the death was accidental due to a fall or caused by other reasons. A case has been registered at the Chikkamagaluru Rural Police Station.

DISHA MEETING

‘Centrally Sponsored Schemes Must Reach 100% target’

MYSURU

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries, H.D. Kumaraswamy, said that the progress of centrally sponsored schemes must reach 100 percent and beneficiaries of these schemes should be selected transparently and provided with the intended benefits.

Chairing the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting held here on Friday, he instructed officials to ensure that land acquisition for the Mysuru–Kushalnagar National Highway 275 is completed by resolving disputes wherever they exist. All banks to treat customers courteously and not harass first-time loan applicants by citing CIBIL scores as an excuse. Lead Bank Manager should deduct subsidies provided to farmers under various schemes towards loan interest.

The minister noted that the number of farmers cultivating cotton has declined, while maize cultivation has increased significantly. Repeated cultivation of maize on the same land reduces soil fertility. Joint Director of the Agriculture Department to create awareness among farmers about this issue. The DISHA meetings are meant to review the progress of schemes and emphasized that officials should not rely solely on reports from lower-level staff. Instead, they should undertake field visits at least one day a week.

Despite many years since independence, still a large number of people in rural areas still lack housing. Officials must conduct a survey to identify the landless and houseless and submit a report to the government. While India is progressing economically, the role of officials is crucial in ensuring that benefits of central and state schemes reach eligible beneficiaries.

Kodagu–Mysuru Lok Sabha MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said development plans should be designed keeping Mysuru city’s growth in mind. Tobacco cultivation is widespread in the district and called for identifying alternative crops and creating awareness to gradually reduce tobacco farming.

He also raised concerns about garbage dumping in Belavatta village and instructed that cameras be installed around the Ring Road area to take action against violators. He further pointed out the increasing nuisance of flex banners and directed the Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner to regulate them.

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy informed that 60% of the work on the Mysuru–Kushalnagar National Highway 275 has been completed. Required land has been acquired, though disputes remain in some areas. He added that land has been handed over to the National Highways Authority and work will continue with police protection. He also stated that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared for the diversion of National Highway 266 near Mysuru Airport and that necessary land has been acquired. A 4 km radius around Mysuru Airport has been designated as a red zone.

Reddy further mentioned that the Tobacco Board, which earlier supplied fertilizers to tobacco farmers, has now reported a shortage of 3,400 metric tonnes of DAP fertilizer, and action will be taken after review.

The meeting was attended by Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha MP Sunil Bose, Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna S. Baladandi, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, former MLA K. Annadani, and officials from various departments.

UoM Women’s Kho Kho Team Selected for All India Inter-University Championship

MYSURU

The University of Mysore women’s Kho Kho team has been selected for the All India Inter-University Championship after securing third place in the South Zone Inter-University Women’s Championship held at Davangere University.

The South Zone Inter-University competition was conducted at Davangere University from March 31 to April 4, with around 80 universities participating. In the league stage, the University of Mysore team defeated the University of Calicut team by 11–9. By finishing in third place, the team qualified for the All India Inter-University Championship. Nagalambika served as the team captain. Dr. Bhaskar K. S., Director of Physical Education, Maharani’s Women’s Arts College, Mysore, was the team manager, and Mr. Kantaraju B. D. served as the coach.

The All India Inter-University Championship will be held at S.N.D.T. Women’s University, Mumbai, from April 19 to 23, where the team will represent.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore, Prof. N. K. Lokanath, Registrar Savita M. K., and Acting Director of the Department of Physical Education, Prof. H. C. Revanna Siddappa, have congratulated the team and extended their best wishes for the upcoming competition.

Medal winners felicitated at UoM Summer Camp

MYSURU

The medal winners in the summer coaching camp organized by Department of Physical Education, University of Mysore, were felicitated in Mysuru.

A.B.Nagendra Prasad, assistant director, Department of Higher Education, Mysore Division, who was the chief guest for the medal ceremony. He called upon the children to take part in one of the other sporting activities to keep themselves fit and fine. T.S. Ravi, coach, Department of Physical Education, University of Mysore, is also incharge of the camp as athletics coach.

Mysuru to Host District Selection Chess Championship on April 12

MYSURU

The New Mysuru District Chess Association (R) (New MDCA) has announced its newly constituted team of office bearers along with the schedule for the Mysuru District Selection Open, Women and Age Category Chess Championship–2026. The initiative is aimed at identifying and promoting chess talent across the district.

The newly formed executive committee has expressed its commitment to strengthening grassroots chess development, encouraging school-level participation, and nurturing players capable of competing at national and international levels.

Office Bearers

Dr. Venugopal K C has been appointed as President. The Vice Presidents are Dr. Karthik Udupa, Umesh S, and Snehith Vincent. Abhilash T will serve as Secretary, while Bharath M has been named Joint Secretary. Jayashree M K will take charge as Treasurer. The Executive Committee members include Veerappan Aiyappan and Ajay N.

Tournament Details

The championship is being organised in association with Rotary Mysuru Brindavan and will be held on April 12, 2026, at Rotary Brindavan School, Brindavan Extension in the city.

Participants are required to report at 9:00 AM, followed by a players’ meeting at 9:30 AM. The first round is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM.

3-day Mysore Open 2026 Tennis Tournament begins in Mysuru

MYSURU

The much-awaited Mysore Open 2026, the prestigious three-day national tennis tournament, officially began today at the iconic Mysore Tennis Club and it was inaugurated by Arjuna Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbati.

Alagappan, President of Mysore Tennis Club, mentioned that it is the club’s commitment to promote tennis at the grassroots level. He announced that the club’s aim is to make tennis accessible to everyone and provide the best facilities for just ₹400 per month.

Mysore Open 2026 Vice President, Moiz Waf, congratulated all the competitors and praised the interest and enthusiasm that has grown in Mysore for the tennis tournament.

The Mysore Open 2026 has been scheduled from April 10 to 12. Players from all over India, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have registered. The tournament will be held in 5 categories: Open Singles and Doubles, Over 35 Singles and Doubles, Over 45 Singles and Doubles, Over 55 Singles and Doubles, Over 65 Singles and Doubles,

Sharing his thoughts at the inauguration, Arjuna Ranga said that he was delighted to support Mysore Open 2026 and participate in this celebration of amazing talent and sportsmanship. Tennis has the power to inspire, unite and transform communities. Such tournaments not only provide a platform to showcase the talent of the players, but also foster long-lasting camaraderie and equality.

Tournament Director Manjunath expressed his pride in hosting the Mysore Open 2026, announcing that it has set a record with 300 entries from across India. “The Mysore Open is not just a tournament, it is a celebration of talent, passion and community ethos.

With a host of great tournaments scheduled between April 10-12, Mysore Open 2026 promises an exceptional experience that will capture the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie and cultural aspects of Mysore.

Special Trains between Mysuru and Jalpaiguri

MYSURU

In a move to clear extra passenger rush during the summer season, South Western Railway will run special express train services between Mysuru and Jalpaiguri Junction, for two trips in each direction.

Train No. 06251 Mysuru – Jalpaiguri Express Special will leave Mysuru at 16:40 hrs on 17th and 24th April 2026 (Fridays) and reach Jalpaiguri Junction at 17:30 hrs on Sundays. In the return direction, Train No. 06252 Jalpaiguri Junction – Mysuru Express Special will depart from Jalpaiguri Junction at 16:45 hrs on 20th and 27th April 2026 (Mondays) and arrive at Mysuru at 16:00 hrs on Wednesdays. The train will run with 20 coaches, including First AC, AC 3-tier, Sleeper Class, General Second Class, and SLR/D coaches, ensuring comfortable travel for all categories of passengers.

Isha Mariyam brings laurels to St Joseph College

MYSURU

Isha Mariyam, a student of St. Joseph PU College for Girls, Sathagalli, has scored 581 marks (97%)* in the II PUC Science stream examinations, emerging as the College Topper from Science Stream. Her remarkable performance is even more special as no student has achieved such a high score in the past seven years from science stream, making this a historic accomplishment for the college.

“Mandya Industry Plans in Limbo, Mekedatu Stalled

Congress activists hold stir in Mysuru

MYSURU

The Congress has accused Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy of adopting a delaying approach towards key development initiatives in Mandya district, including industrial projects and the long-pending Mekedatu scheme.

Addressing a protest in front of the party office here on Friday, Mysuru City Congress spokesperson S. Rajesh alleged that despite the state government identifying 100 acres of land for industrial development in Mandya, Kumaraswamy has failed to grant necessary approvals, thereby stalling progress.

Rajesh said that Mandya MLA Ganiga Ravi had already identified suitable land parcels in front of VC Farm and near Amaravati Hotel for establishing industries. However, instead of facilitating the process, Kumaraswamy reportedly sent officials to examine the matter, which has led to further controversy and delays. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced allocation of 100 acres for industrial purposes in the State Budget. At a time when the State is keen on pushing industrial growth in Mandya, Kumaraswamy appears to be hesitant in giving the green signal.

He emphasized that the project aims to provide drinking water to Kanakapura, Ramanagara, and Bengaluru Rural districts, besides generating power and preventing wastage of water flowing into the sea.

However, Rajesh alleged that Kumaraswamy has failed to effectively take up the issue with the Union Government, including the Prime Minister and the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, to secure necessary clearances. “It is condemnable that the interests of the State are being ignored. During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, promises were made to the people of Mandya, but after securing votes, there has been silence on crucial issues like Mekedatu,” he said.

The Congress has demanded immediate action to expedite industrial projects in Mandya and to push forward the Mekedatu project in the larger interest of the State.

Free Eye Check-up at Usha Kiran Eye Hospital

MYSURU

Free eye check-up services will be done every Tuesday from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Usha Kiran Eye Hospital, located on Diwan’s Road in Lakshmipuram, Mysuru.

The services will be provided by specialist doctors Dr. K.V. Ravishankar and Dr. Uma Ravishankar.

In addition, various diagnostic tests, treatments, and surgeries required by patients will be offered at significantly discounted rates compared to the hospital’s standard charges. The hospital aims to provide affordable healthcare services to patients at low cost. It has also assured that no patient will be denied treatment due to financial reasons.

Patients are required to book appointments in advance to avail of the services. The hospital offers a wide range of eye care treatments, including cataract, glaucoma, retina-related issues, diabetic eye diseases, and pediatric eye problems, along with all types of eye surgeries. For appointments, patients can contact: 0821-2334777 / 82770 80222, according to a statement by Dr. K.V. Ravishankar.

TiECon Mysuru 2026 to Spotlight City’s Startup Potential

MYSURU

TiE Mysuru, a global non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, has invited start-up founders, industry leaders, investors, academicians and students to participate in TiECon Mysuru 2026, its flagship annual conference on startups, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The three-day summit, themed “Reimagine Mysuru,” will be held from April 17 to 19 at the JSS Centre for Advanced Commerce (JCAC) in Vijayanagar. The event aims to position Mysuru as a key entrepreneurial hub by leveraging its growing digital infrastructure, expanding startup ecosystem, strong academic base, vibrant MSME sector and improved connectivity with major cities.

Organisers said Mysuru is currently at a crucial inflection point, driven by increasing professional migration and rising innovation activity. TiECon Mysuru 2026 seeks to channel this momentum into structured and sustainable growth through collaboration and long-term vision.

The conference will feature investment pitches by more than 25 early-stage and growth-stage companies from across the country to investors from Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mumbai. It will also host discussions on strengthening industry-academia collaboration, establishing an angel network in Mysuru, and showcasing promising startups across key sectors.

Several prominent advisory and industry bodies and academic institutions, including KDEM, CFTRI, ICAI, ICSI, CII, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and PALS, along with local colleges, are expected to participate in the event.

In a first for the conference, more than 25 charter members from over 10 TiE chapters worldwide will take part. Representatives from the consulates of Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland are also expected to attend.

TiE Mysuru President Bhaskar Katate said the summit would bring together thought leaders from diverse sectors to reimagine Mysuru’s entrepreneurial landscape and catalyse meaningful collaborations.

SILENCE TO SUCCESS

BRILLIANCE BEYOND SOUND

MYSURU

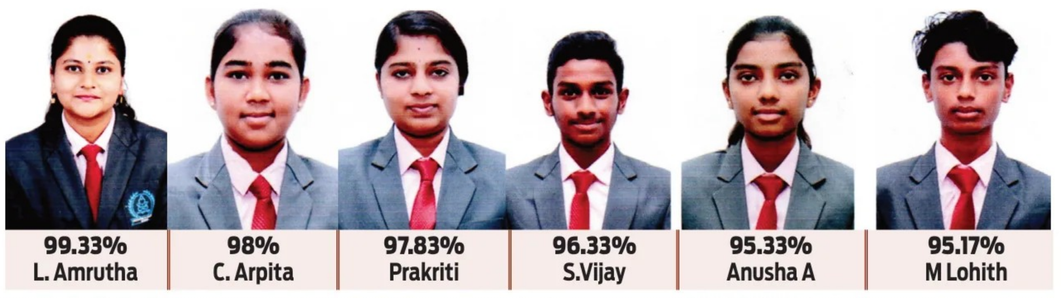
The Parents Association of Deaf Children (Regd.), Mysore proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone as its students shine brightly in the II PUC examinations.

These talented students, who began their journey at the Institute of Mother & Deaf Child, have gone on to pursue education in mainstream schools and colleges—proving that determination knows no barriers.

Competing alongside hearing students, they have achieved outstanding results, showcasing their resilience, hard work, and academic excellence. In Science, Rohith R L secured an impressive 94.5%, followed by Daksha (84.4%), Samarth L D (79.16%), Apekshitha Raj (76.6%), and Sreedeepthi (72%). In Commerce, Ananya scored 82%, Vishwas 76%, and Veda D R 72%. In Arts, Chethan K C stood out with 89%, while Nagaveni scored 61%.

These achievements are not just marks—they are powerful stories of courage, perseverance, and the unwavering support of parents and teachers. Despite challenges, these students have proven that hearing ability does not define intelligence or success.

The PADC Committee extends heartfelt congratulations to all students and their proud parents. Your success is an inspiration to many and a shining example of inclusive education in action.



"STERILISATION VS SURVIVAL: Can Science Solve Human-Wildlife Conflict?"

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

Karnataka's proposal to sterilise select wild animals to curb rising human–animal conflict has triggered an intense debate among conservationists, scientists, and policymakers. While the idea appears innovative, experts say its feasibility remains uncertain and context-dependent.

Sterilisation of wild animals is not entirely new, but its application has been limited and experimental. In India, Maharashtra has initiated pilot projects to sterilise leopards in conflict zones, with court approval for a small number of animals.

Globally, certain African countries have experimented with immuno-contraception in elephants, aiming to control population growth without culling. However, these projects are highly controlled, expensive, and limited to specific reserves.

Evidence remains inconclusive. Wildlife sterilisation differs significantly from urban animal control programs. For instance, sterilisation drives among stray dogs in Indian cities have shown measurable impact only when over 70–90% of the population is covered consistently over years.

Applying this to wild animals poses a massive challenge. Unlike stray dogs, wild species such as elephants and leopards are mobile, elusive, and spread across vast forest landscapes. Capturing even a fraction of the population repeatedly is logistically daunting. Experts caution that sterilisation addresses population growth, not necessarily conflict behaviour. Human–wildlife conflict in India is driven more by habitat loss, fragmentation, and human encroachment than sheer numbers.

ResearchGate

Even if reproduction slows, animals already in conflict zones may continue to stray into human settlements in search of food and space. Wildlife activists strongly oppose the move, arguing: "You cannot practically sterilise large animals like elephants in significant numbers." "It risks disturbing natural breeding patterns and social structures."

"Selective sterilisation could create ecological imbalance and unintended consequences." They emphasize that forests are already under pressure and intervention-heavy approaches may worsen the situation.

"Sterilisation may work in enclosed or semi-wild systems, but not in open forests," says a wildlife conservationist. "Conflict is a land-use issue, not just a population issue."

FOREST DEPARTMENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Officials defend the idea as an experimental and supplementary measure, not a standalone solution. "We are exploring scientific options, including pilot projects, in consultation with research institutions," a senior forest official said. They argue that rising conflict incidents demand new strategies alongside traditional measures like translocation and barriers.

Veterinarians highlight practical hurdles:

"Capturing, sedating, operating, and releasing wild animals involves high risk, cost, and manpower." "Post-operative monitoring in the wild is nearly impossible." They also warn of stress-related mortality and complications in large mammals.

The bigger question

Ultimately, the debate circles back to a fundamental issue: can a biological intervention solve an ecological problem? Many experts suggest that relocating encroachments, restoring corridors, and reducing human pressure on forests may be more sustainable long-term solutions.

Conclusion

Sterilisation of wild animals may offer limited, experimental value in specific cases, but it is far from a silver bullet. Without addressing habitat loss and human expansion, the conflict is likely to persist—raising doubts whether Karnataka's proposal is a breakthrough solution or a costly distraction.

EXPERT OPINION

IMPRACTICAL TO STERILIZE WILD ANIMALS

Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation caused by development—especially linear infrastructure—are forcing wild animals to leave reserves and enter human settlements. To address rising human-wildlife conflict, the Forest Department has planned barriers along forest boundaries in high-conflict zones to contain elephants. However, degraded habitats dominated by invasive species, poor bamboo regeneration, and frequent wildfires fail to sustain elephants and other ungulates. Traditional wildlife corridors have also been encroached upon, worsening the situation. A long-term solution lies in removing encroachments and restoring habitats and corridors. However, lack of political will has shifted focus to measures like sterilizing elephants and leopards found in human areas. In practice, this approach has limited impact. Karnataka has around 6,000 wild elephants, but fewer than 100 are captured annually, with only 30–40 females. Sterilizing such a small number is insignificant compared to the estimated 4,000 female elephants in the state.

Similarly, leopard captures are even fewer. India has about 20,000 leopards, with roughly 1,000 in Karnataka. Sterilizing a small fraction will not control population growth. While sterilization is not inherently flawed, its practical effectiveness in reducing conflict remains minimal.

"Development Must Not Destroy the Future: Mysore Zoo Chief

MYSURU

Stressing the urgent need to balance progress with environmental preservation, P.Anusha, Executive Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysuru a senior forest official addressed a workshop on sustainable development in environmental science, calling it "the future of development."

Speaking after inaugurating one-day workshop on 'Sustainable Development in Environmental Science' organized by Department of Chemistry, JSS College for Women, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru on Friday, she said Development is inevitable and essential," pointing to the country's growing population and the need to generate employment opportunities for its large youth demographic. However, the real challenge lies in ensuring that development does not come at the cost of our future. Highlighting the importance of sustainability, Anusha emphasized the need to preserve natural resources while pursuing economic growth. They must think about how to move forward without destroying the very resources that sustain them. Awareness programmes like the workshop play a crucial role in shaping responsible future citizens.

Addressing common misconceptions, she pointed out that the Forest Department is often seen as an obstacle to development. People believe them oppose development, but that is not true. All departments, including theirs, ultimately work for the welfare of people. The difference is that the Forest Department specifically safeguards the environment and wildlife.

She clarified that regulatory measures imposed by the department are not intended to halt progress but to mitigate long-term environmental damage. At times, the rules may seem restrictive, but they are meant to postpone or prevent harmful consequences of unchecked development. The more they learn about the environment and wildlife, the more sensitive and responsible they become.

Drawing from India's cultural roots, she highlighted the deep connection between tradition and nature. The culture inherently respects and worships nature. From the reverence for plants like tulsi to the association of animals with deities, nature is deeply embedded in our daily lives.

In his keynote address, Prof. A G Deviprasad, Retired Professor of Environmental Science, University of Mysore, highlighted the importance of natural resources. He stated that humans should utilise natural resources judiciously. He said nature has provided immense help to mankind and that humans should never allow natural resources to get depleted. Man should work towards the sustainable development of the environment.

Prof. Morabada Mallikarjuna, Director, College Education Division. JSS Mahavidyapeetha, Mysuru, who presided, warned that failure to protect the environment would force humanity to face dire consequences. Humans must overcome their selfishness and focus their efforts on environmental protection and added that sustainable development in society can be achieved only through the harmonious blend of scientific knowledge and ethical values.

Dr. Rechanna, Principal and Dr. Lokeshwari D M, Head, Department of Chemistry, were present on the occasion. Faculty members and students participated in the programme.

133 plots fetch Rs 156 crore for MDA

MYSURU

The city's real estate market is buzzing with energy as the recent land auction conducted by the Mysore Development Authority (MDA) turned into a grand success, generating a whopping ₹156 crore from 133 plots. The strong response highlights the growing investor confidence and rising demand for premium residential spaces in Mysuru.

Among all the layouts, Vasanthnagar emerged as the star attraction. Buyers flocked in large numbers, pushing plot prices to nearly ₹8,000 per square foot. The competitive bidding reflects the area's increasing popularity and potential for future growth.

As expected, Dattagalli extension continued to dominate as a high-end residential hotspot. Plot prices here ranged between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000 per sq ft, reaffirming its status as one of Mysuru's most sought-after locations. Even plots measuring 30x40 fetched prices exceeding ₹1 crore, underlining sustained demand.

While Vijayanagara Layout had captured attention in previous auctions, this time Vasanthnagar took the lead as the new favourite among buyers. This shift indicates evolving preferences and the emergence of new growth corridors within the city.

Despite the overall success, the auction had a few unexpected twists. Around 21 plots received only single bids, and some plots are yet to find buyers. However, the high-value bids recorded for prime plots balanced the outcome, showcasing a mix of caution and confidence among investors.

Environmentalists welcome HC's order on staying ongoing works atop Chamundi Hill

MYSURU

The organization "Parisarakkagi Naavu' welcomes the High Court's stay order on the ongoing works under the 'Prasad' project at Chamundi Hill.

In a press release here on Friday, Parashuramegowda, general secretary or the organization said the High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the government's action of continuing the work in violation of the assurance given to the Court. It has also warned that any future violation of court orders will be treated seriously as contempt of court. The Court has raised concern that, despite assuring that no permanent construction would be undertaken without prior permission, the State Government has proceeded with permanent works. The Court observed that the justification given by the Deputy Commissioner—that construction was undertaken because ₹47 crore had been released by the Central Government—is not only

mala fide but also legally untenable.

He said the court stated in strong terms that the Deputy Commissioner, being a State officer, has a primary duty to strictly comply with court orders, and failure to do so amounts to a clear violation of judicial authority. By allowing permanent construction contrary to the assurance given to the Court, the DC has shown disrespect to the judiciary.

The organization strongly condemns this arrogance, which disregards the letters of royal family member Pramoda Devi, the struggles of environmental organizations, and the religious sentiments of devotees. Further examples of administrative inefficiency and irresponsibility include: identifying 5 acres of land within the premises of a silk reeling factory in T. Narasipura for a sports stadium, earmarking 20 acres of fertile double-crop land for the construction of a NIMHANS hospital, and the failure to arrest the accused who cut down 40 large trees on the banks of the Kapila River in Nanjangud.

The organization questions why the DC has not yet convened a meeting of environmental organizations regarding Chamundi Hill, despite assuring—on the suggestion of Chamundeshwari constituency MLA G.T. Devegowda—that such a meeting would be held within two to three days.

The organization urges that a meeting of environmental groups be convened at the earliest to discuss the issues concerning Chamundi Hill and the garbage problems in the outskirts of Mysuru.

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QUICK READ

HC Dismisses PIL Challenging SSLC Grading System

Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the state government's decision to award grades instead of marks for third language subjects in the SSLC examination, while also imposing a fine of ₹1 lakh on the petitioners for filing the plea without adequate supporting documents. The pe tition was filed by H.N. Chandana and S. Venkatesh, who argued that the government's decision to replace marks with grades in third language subjects could adversely affect students' academic prospects. They contended that such a shift in evaluation might impact merit assessment and future opportunities for students.

Second PUC Student Dies by Suicide

Bengaluru

A tragic incident has been reported in Bengaluru, where a second PUC student died by suicide shortly after the announcement of examination results. The case has taken a disturbing turn after it emerged that the student had posted a cryptic message on her WhatsApp status shortly before her death. The deceased student, identified as Tanushree, reportedly ended her life by hanging herself at her residence. According to preliminary information, she had posted a message reading 3PM fielding set on her WhatsApp status, which alarmed her close friend. Sensing something was wrong, the friend rushed to Tanushree's house. However, by the time the friend arrived, Tanushree had already taken the extreme step. The friend immediately informed her father, and together they broke open the door and brought her down.

KEA Releases Exam Schedule for Various Govt Posts

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has officially announced the schedule for written examinations for recruitment to various government posts across the state. The move is expected to benefit thousands of aspirants preparing for competitive exams in Karnataka.

According to the notification, the written examinations for basic cadre posts in several corporations and boards will be conducted on April 26 and May 10. These posts include vacancies in key institutions such as the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore Water Board, and the Department of Agricultural Marketing. Additionally, examinations for positions under the Kalyana Karnataka cadre are scheduled to be held on April 27 and May 9.

Candidates applying under this category are advised to take note of the specific dates and prepare accordingly.

The KEA has urged all applicants to regularly visit its official website for detailed information, including admit card release dates, examination guidelines, and other important updates.

Govt Grants Age Relaxation for Class 1 Admissions

Govt has announced a significant policy decision regarding the minimum age requirement for Class 1 admissions in primary schools across the state.

BENGALURU

As per the existing state education policy, children must complete six years of age by June 1 of the academic year to be eligible for admission into Class 1. However, this rule had led to concerns among parents, as many children narrowly missed the cutoff and were forced to lose an entire academic year. Responding to repeated appeals and representations from parents across the state, the government has introduced a temporary relaxation to address this issue. In a move aimed at benefiting thousands of children, the government has approved a one-time relaxation of 60 days in the prescribed age limit for the 2026-27 academic year.Under the revised order, children who fall short of the six-year age requirement by up to 60 days from June 1 will now be considered eligible for admission into Class 1 for the 2026-27 academic session. This means that if a child turns six within 60 days after June 1, they will still be treated as having met the age criteria and can be enrolled in school.Officials clarified that the calculation method will consider children whose birthdays fall within 60 days from June 1 as eligible, effectively allowing them to begin their formal education without delay. The government has emphasized that this relaxation is strictly limited to the 2026-27 academic year and will not automatically apply to subsequent years.

To ensure smooth implementation of the new policy, the government has directed the education department to make necessary updates to the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS), the digital platform used for school admissions and records. Commissioners and departmental directors have been instructed to enforce the revised guidelines strictly.This decision is expected to provide relief to thousands of families and prevent children from missing out on a crucial year of schooling due to minor age differences, thereby promoting better access to early education across Karnataka.

The actor informed HC he will submit a revised apology in connection with a case alleging disrespect toward a divine character depicted in film Kantara

'Kantara' Controversy:Ranveer to Submit Revised Apology in HC

BENGALURU

During the court proceedings, counsel representing the complainant argued that the affidavit earlier filed by Ranveer Singh lacked genuine remorse and instead appeared to downplay the seriousness of the complaint.

The complainant's lawyer contended that the document gave an impression that filing the complaint itself was unwarranted, thereby failing to acknowledge the sentiments of devotees who were allegedly hurt by the actor's remarks and gestures.In response, the actor's legal counsel assured the bench that a revised affidavit would be submitted after discussions with the complainant. The new statement, they said, would incorporate language that adequately reflects regret and addresses the concerns raised by the complainant.The case stems from an incident that reportedly took place a few months ago during the International Film Festival of India held in Goa. Ranveer Singh is accused of making an objectionable gesture while referring to a divine character associated with the film, which led to a private complaint being filed. Subsequently, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the High Grounds Police Station in Bengaluru. The petition filed by Ranveer Singh seeks the quashing of both the private complaint and the FIR. The matter is being heard by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who is currently examining the submissions from both sides.In his earlier statement, the actor expressed that he was unaware at the time that his actions could hurt the religious sentiments of devotees. He explained that he comes from a Sindhi family background in Mumbai and was not fully aware of the cultural sensitivities involved. Singh conveyed his deep regret over the incident and extended an unconditional apology.He further stated that he intends to visit a temple in Mysuru to offer prayers as a mark of respect and devotion. The case continues to be under judicial consideration, with further development.

JD(S) Plans Grand 25th Anniversary Rally

BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) is gearing up to celebrate its 25th anniversary with a major political event in Bengaluru, signaling a renewed push to strengthen its presence in the city. The celebration will take place at Nice Ground in Kommaghatta and is expected to draw significant participation from party leaders and workers.JD(S) youth wing leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who is set to visit Bengaluru for the occasion, addressed a press conference along with senior leaders including MLCs Javarai Gowda, T A Saravana, and Ramesh Gowda. During the interaction, Nikhil emphasized that the upcoming rally is a strong response to critics who have questioned the party's influence in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru Police Warn of Legal Action Over Viral 'Zombie Drug' Video

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police has issued a strong warning against the spread of misinformation on social media after a video allegedly showing a man consuming zombie drugs went viral.

Addressing the media, Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh stated that the individual seen in the viral video was medically examined and found not to have consumed any such substance. He emphasized that the narrative around zombie drugs in the clip was entirely unfounded and misleading. Following the investigation, the police arrested the person who initially uploaded the video. The victim has since issued a public apology and released another video acknowledging the misinformation. City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh clarified that the claims in the video were baseless and confirmed that action has already been initiated against those responsible for circulating it.

The police have taken a serious view of the incident, noting that the spread of false information can damage reputations and create unnecessary panic among the public. Authorities have announced that notices will be issued to individuals who shared or amplified the video without verifying its authenticity. Legal action will be pursued against those found guilty of spreading rumors or defamatory content.The Commissioner stressed that public comments and social media posts must be based on verified medical reports rather than assumptions or speculation. He cautioned that spreading slander about individuals, especially in sensitive matters such as alleged drug use, would not be tolerated. The investigation is ongoing, and officials are also examining the intent behind the original upload, which reportedly referenced drug abuse scenarios abroad.

Notably, several prominent figures, including actor Duniya Vijay and former Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao, were among those who shared the video on social media. The police are likely to issue notices to around 25 individuals in the initial phase of the crackdown.The Bengaluru City Police reiterated their commitment to curbing misinformation online and urged citizens to act responsibly while sharing content, highlighting the legal consequences of spreading unverified claims.

Woman Attempts Suicide Alleging Cheating by Former Corporator

BENGALURU

A shocking incident has been reported in Bengaluru, where a woman allegedly attempted suicide by consuming poison, accusing a former corporator of cheating her.

The case has triggered concern and debate in the city, with police launching an investigation into the serious allegations.According to initial reports, the woman left behind a note blaming a former corporator, identified as Munindra, for her decision. The two were reportedly in contact for several years, but in recent times, the accused is said to have distanced himself from her. The woman has alleged that she was deceived after being made to trust him, leading to emotional distress.

In the note recovered by authorities, the woman is believed to have clearly stated that Munindra was responsible for her condition. It is suspected that she took the extreme step due to mental anguish caused by the alleged betrayal. Following the incident, she was immediately rushed to Yelahanka Government Hospital, where she is currently undergoing treatment. Doctors are monitoring her condition closely.Police officials reached the hospital soon after being informed and have begun collecting details related to the case. They are expected to record the woman's statement once her condition stabilizes. The contents of the note and other available evidence are being carefully examined to determine the sequence of events and establish the facts.

HC Quashes FIR on Drone Flight, Says Criminal Law Cannot Apply to Objects

BENGALURU

In a significant ruling, the Karnataka High Court has quashed a First Information Report (FIR) related to a drone flight, observing that criminal laws are meant to regulate human actions and cannot be directly applied to inanimate objects such as drones.The case originated from an incident near Yelahanka in Bengaluru, where a drone was allegedly flown over a private property. A complaint had been filed claiming that the drone's presence amounted to trespass and caused disturbance to the occupants. Based on this complaint, the police registered an FIR invoking provisions of the Indian Penal Code.Challenging the FIR, the drone owner approached the High Court seeking its quashing. After examining the matter, the court made key observations on the applicability of criminal law in such situations.The bench clarified that the concept of trespass under the Indian Penal Code requires intentional entry by a person into another's property. A drone, being a machine, does not possess intent or consciousness and therefore cannot independently commit an offence. The court emphasized that attributing criminal liability directly to an inanimate object is legally untenable.Further, the judges pointed out that criminal laws are framed to govern human conduct and behavior. Extending such provisions to cover the mere presence of a device within a property, without clearly establishing human intent behind it, would go beyond the scope of the law.The court also highlighted that any violations related to drone operations are governed by regulatory frameworks set by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. If rules regarding drone usage are breached, action should be taken under these specific regulations rather than invoking criminal provisions under the IPC.Based on these observations, the High Court quashed the FIR, setting an important precedent on how emerging technologies like drones should be treated within the legal framework. The ruling underscores the need for clear legal interpretation.

STATE CABINET MEET

Karnataka Cabinet to Hold 10th Meeting of 2026 on April 16

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government has scheduled its 10th cabinet meeting of 2026 to be held on April 16, Thursday, in Bengaluru. The meeting is expected to deliberate on key administrative and developmental matters concerning the state.

According to an official notification issued by R. Chandrashekhar, the cabinet meeting will commence at 4:30 PM. The venue for the meeting is the cabinet hall located within Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the state legislature and government offices.

The meeting will be chaired by the Chief Minister and will see the participation of all cabinet ministers, including the Deputy Chief Ministers. Senior officials indicated that the meeting is expected to address a range of important governance issues, though the detailed agenda will be circulated separately to concerned members prior to the meeting.

The official communication also confirmed that the agenda document outlining specific topics for discussion will be shared in due course. Typically, such cabinet meetings play a crucial role in reviewing policy decisions, approving new proposals, and monitoring the progress of ongoing government initiatives.

In preparation for the meeting, the notice has been circulated to the Chief Secretary as well as Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of all departments. Their involvement ensures that relevant data, proposals, and updates from various sectors are presented effectively during deliberations.Sources suggest that the cabinet may take up significant decisions related to development projects, administrative reforms, and public welfare measures. With multiple departments coordinating their inputs, the meeting is expected to contribute to shaping the state's policy direction in the coming months.The Karnataka Government continues to hold regular cabinet meetings to ensure timely decision-making and efficient governance, reflecting its focus on addressing pressing issues and advancing developmental priorities across the state.

WARNING ISSUED ON ILLEGAL UREA SALES

Dr. Umesh warned fertilizer dealers against misuse of urea, enforcing K-Kisan system, Aadhaar-linked sales, and strict legal action

CHITRADURGA

Deputy Agriculture Director Dr. D. Umesh has warned fertilizer sellers of strict legal action if urea meant for farming is found being sold for non-agricultural use. He spoke while presiding over an awareness and training program for fertilizer dealers held at the District Agricultural Training Center in Babbur Farm, Hiriyur taluk, on Friday.

He stressed that transparency must be maintained in fertilizer distribution. All sales should be made only through the K-Kisan online system. Sellers were instructed to ensure that urea is issued only using the farmer's Aadhaar number or FID linked to land records.

Hiriyur Assistant Agriculture Director Dr. J. Ashoka said that seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides come under the Essential Commodities Act. He warned that those who hoard or create artificial shortages for profit will face strict punishment under the law. He also reminded sellers to renew their licenses on time.

Representatives of the fertilizer dealers' association said they are ready to supply fertilizers to farmers without delay and confirmed that there is currently no shortage in the taluk. They also suggested direct supply to reduce transportation costs.

Agriculture department officials, technical staff, and fertilizer dealers participated in the program. The meeting focused on ensuring fair distribution and preventing misuse of essential farm inputs for the benefit of farmers.

QUICK READ

Chitradurga invites applications for summer camp

Chitradurga

A district-level summer camp for children aged 5 to 16 will be held from April 21 to May 7, organized by the State Balabhavan Society, Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, and District Balabhavan Committee. Applications must be submitted by April 18. The camp will offer training in yoga, meditation, painting, karate, handicrafts, drama, music, dance, mehndi, and other creative activities. Officials said the program aims to develop children's skills and confidence. Parents are requested to register before the deadline. For details, contact the Women and Child Development Department office in Chitradurga or the program coordinator provided.

Chitradurga to celebrate Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14

Chitradurga

The 135th birth anniversary of Constitution architect Dr. B.R. Ambedkar will be celebrated on April 14 at Shri Maharshi Valmiki Bhavan in Chitradurga. The event is organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, and City Municipal Council. Planning Minister and District In-charge D. Sudhakar will inaugurate the program, with several MLAs, MPs, and officials attending. MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappy will preside. A procession with cultural groups will begin earlier in the day, followed by floral tributes at the statue. A special lecture and cultural performances will mark the celebration.

Chitradurga PU college boys shine in exams

Chitradurga

Students of the Government Boys' Pre-University College in Chitradurga city have delivered strong results in the 2025-26 Second PUC Annual Examination. The college reported 21 students securing top ranks, while 116 students passed in the first division, 66 in the second division, and 39 in the third division. In Commerce, S. Ajay topped with 572 marks. In Science, R. Sandeep scored 558 marks, and in Arts, V. Ramanjineya secured 551 marks as college toppers. College officials, including MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi and the Development Committee, congratulated students and staff for the achievement and success.

Magadi Congress row over MLA claims heats

MAGADI

Kudur Lokesh criticized former MLA A. Manjunath and demanded that his achievements during his term be explained clearly. Speaking at a press conference at the Congress office in Magadi town on Friday, he said Manjunath was making baseless allegations against MLA H.C. Balakrishna and misleading people.

He alleged issues including temple land seizure in Kudur, a 600 crore Public Works Department scam, and an 18 crore scam in Kudur BDCC Bank, and said no proper investigation was pushed during Manjunath's tenure. He challenged Manjunath to release documents and said he would retire from politics if proven wrong.

He also defended Balakrishna, saying people elected him after his service during the COVID 19 period, while former leaders were inactive. He said Balakrishna won by a large margin, showing public support. Lokesh criticized comparisons calling him a gift card MLA and said development works in the constituency are being ignored. He added that plans for a Rs 43 crore high tech hospital and other projects show progress.

Lokesh alleged major scams, challenged evidence, defended Balakrishna's COVID service and victory, and highlighted ongoing development projects

He also responded to remarks by HD Kumaraswamy and Ashwath Narayan, saying opposition leaders should review their own record before criticizing. Locals attended the press meet and discussions continued on development issues and political accountability in Magadi constituency.

Leaders said that further clarification and evidence would be needed to settle the allegations raised during the heated exchange among political representatives at the press conference.

Temple sculptures inspire Karnataka dance research drive

TUMKUR

Vidushi Dr Karuna Vijayendra spoke as chief guest at the Rasagrahi Cultural Festival second edition held on April 9 2026 at Sri Sai Raman Nritya Kendra in Tumkur urging more research on Karnataka dance heritage She said temples of Karnataka are living stages of ancient dance tradition.

She explained that sculptures and inscriptions show clear evidence of karanas and dance poses from the past She added that these are not just decoration but reflect deep spiritual and cultural meaning She asked young people to take part in documenting and reviving this tradition A documentary called Ranga Vaibhav was screened and appreciated She praised Dr Sagar and Sri Sai Raman Dance Center for organizing the event.

Dr Sagar said the center is recognized by Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mumbai and about 600 students wrote exams this year He said more than 20 rural institutions use this facility making dance education easier in villages The program ended with Bharatanatyam performances and awards to students and teachers Guests including Suma Prasad attended The event became a bridge between dance culture and research in Karnataka inspiring students and researchers alike to value temple arts and classical traditions through study practice and public performance.

The organizers said the festival helped connect rural and urban learners of dance and encouraged more cultural awareness in young generations The audience appreciated the effort and called it an important cultural platform

Rural PU college records outstanding exam results

HOSAKOTE

Students of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Residential Science Pre-University College in Doddahalli village, Y.N. Hosakote Hobli, have delivered an impressive performance in the 2025–26 PUC examinations. The college has recorded a high pass percentage of 98.61, earning praise from parents and staff.

Out of 72 students who appeared for the exam, 26 secured first class with distinction, 41 passed in first class, and 4 in second class. The results have been described as a proud moment for the rural institution. Mokshatha M.S. secured the top position with 575 marks, followed by Chetan M.A. with 572 marks. Deepika H.N. and Jayashree secured third position with 563 marks.

Parents, principal, and lecturers expressed happiness over the achievement and congratulated the students for their hard work. They said the success proves that rural residential colleges can achieve excellent academic results with proper guidance and dedication.

Sudhamani B M was elected unopposed as Holalu village society Vice President and pledged cooperative development and centenary celebrations

Sudhamani elected unopposed Vice President of Holalu society

MANDYA

Sudhamani B M was elected unopposed as Vice President of Holalu village society in Mandya taluk after no other nominations were filed in the recent election held on Friday. The election was conducted to fill the vacancy created after the resignation of Savita H K, and the returning officer declared her elected as the only candidate.

In her address, Sudhamani B M thanked all members for their cooperation and said she was elected with unanimous support from the 12 member association. She said the board would work together for development and aim to make the cooperative society a model institution in the district. She also informed that the century old society will celebrate its centenary program with enthusiasm and requested villagers to extend their support.

Leaders and members of the association including H P Sachidananda, Savita H K and others congratulated the new vice president and wished her success. Village representatives and executive board members were present during the election process and expressed hope for smooth functioning of the society ahead.

Report said that the newly elected leadership will focus on strengthening rural cooperation, improving transparency, and preparing for the upcoming centenary celebrations which are expected to bring all villagers together and highlight the long standing history of the Holalu cooperative society as a model institution in Mandya district Karnataka according to society officials report here.

Grand plans set for multiple Jayanti Celebrations

CHITRADURGA

Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantaraj chaired a preparatory meeting and directed officials to ensure smooth and meaningful celebrations of major Jayantis scheduled in April across the district.

The meeting focused on organizing Sri Basava Jayanti on April 20, Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti on April 21, and Sri Bhagirath Jayanti on April 23 with proper coordination and public participation. For Sri Basava Jayanti, leaders proposed conducting the main event at Neelkantheshwar Community Hall on Holalkere Road at 3 pm, followed by a grand procession at 4.30 pm. The procession will pass through key areas of the city with various art troupes and cultural performances. Officials agreed to follow government guidelines and ensure a well-organized program, including a special lecture and vachana singing.

Sri Bhagirath Jayanti will be held on April 23 at Maharishi Valmiki Bhavan. A procession will begin from Kanaka Circle and conclude at the venue. Cultural programs and a lecture highlighting Bhagirath's contributions will also be arranged. Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti is scheduled on April 21 at the District Collector's Office Hall. The program will include devotional music and a special lecture.

New insurance office brings relief to workers

MANDYA

The State Insurance Corporation has opened a new branch office for workers at PES Layout in Mandya city, bringing major relief to insured employees in the region. The office was inaugurated by Regional Director Manoj Kumar.

Speaking at the event, Manoj Kumar said the office was opened after long-standing demands from the public. He highlighted that the corporation provides several benefits, including medical support for families, financial aid during illness, maternity assistance, and compensation for workplace injuries.

He added that earlier, workers had to travel nearly 40 kilometres to Mysuru to access these services. With the new office in Mandya, all facilities are now easily available within the city.

Managing Director Shreyas said all insured members under the Mandya jurisdiction can now fully access services and should make maximum use of the benefits provided.

Assistant Director Sharavan Kumar, Joint Director Ravinayak, Medical Officer Dr. Kusuma, and other officials were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Rakkasamma festival draws grand celebrations in Hunsur

HUNSUR

Former MLA SP Manjunath participated in the grand Puja Mahotsava marking the 52nd anniversary of goddess Rakkasamma at Shiva Jyoti Nagar in ward 20 of Hunsur city and offered prayers seeking blessings from the deity. Later local residents, devotees, fans and activists gathered in large numbers to show solidarity and honoured former MLA HP Manjunath, along with Ganiga community leaders and youth groups.

Supporters lifted him on their shoulders and danced in celebration expressing happiness during the event. The locals joined the programme and celebrated the festival in a grand manner and also offered food and drinks to devotees present. On this occasion, temple committee leaders and several community members including youth activists were present at the event.

Temple committee leaders led by Intak Raju Prasadi Mahadevaswamy organised the programme while former city council member Parveen Taj and several Congress and community leaders also took part in the celebrations. Residents of the city actively participated in the event and helped in smooth conduct of the festival while volunteers served food and drinks to devotees and the atmosphere remained festive with cultural unity and devotion witnessed across the area.

Leaders appreciated the cooperation of all participants and said such festivals strengthen social harmony, cultural values, and community bonding in Hunsur city and assured continued support for similar programmes in the future without any untoward incidents reported here.

BETTING KILLS DREAMS

Viral police message warns youth against betting

KOLAR

In response to the rising cases of online and cricket betting, Kolar District Police have launched a strong awareness campaign that is rapidly going viral on social media platforms like WhatsApp. The campaign carries a simple yet powerful message: "A ball can be replaced, but a life cannot," which has deeply connected with the public, especially the youth.

The campaign uses a cricket-based theme to explain the dangers of betting. It highlights that while losing a cricket ball is minor and replaceable, losing one's life due to poor decisions like gambling can have permanent consequences. This creative approach has made the message easy to understand and widely shareable.

Police officials noted that betting activities tend to rise during IPL matches, particularly those involving popular teams like Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Many young fans are drawn into betting due to excitement, peer pressure, and the lure of quick money. However, what starts as small bets often leads to heavy financial losses.

Authorities warned that some individuals even borrow money to continue betting, leading to serious debt, stress, and family problems. The campaign also points out that betting apps attract users with offers like free credits but eventually trap them in risky financial cycles.

Police have reminded the public that online betting is illegal and can result in strict legal action. Citizens have been urged to report such activities through the emergency helpline 112.

Officials emphasized that the campaign aims not only to enforce the law but also to promote responsible behavior. They advised youth to stay focused on their future and parents to guide their children carefully, ensuring they avoid harmful habits and make safe choices.

QUICK READ

Raichur Court sentences 10 to life in murder case

Raichur

A court in Lingasuguru has sentenced 10 accused to life imprisonment in the 2021 murder case of Sharanabasava from Gudadanala village. The Third Additional District and Sessions Court delivered the verdict on Friday. The court also imposed a fine of ₹19,500 on each convict. The accused were found guilty after investigation and trial proceedings in the case. The government prosecutor argued for strict punishment, while police officials had earlier filed the charge sheet. The judgment brings closure to the long-pending case and highlights the court's strict stand on violent crimes in the district.

Chitradurga city to face planned power cut

Chitradurga

Residents of Chitradurga city will experience a power disruption on April 12 from 10 am to 5 pm due to emergency maintenance work on F-9 and F-10 power lines. Officials said the outage is required for repair and safety works. Areas affected under the F-9 route include Saraswathipuram, IUDP Layout, District Hospital surroundings, Zilla Panchayat Office, Jogimatti Road, and nearby localities. Under F-10, areas such as KHB Layout, Teachers Colony, Stadium Road, Gandhi Nagar, Prashant Nagar, and V.V. Badavane will be affected. BESCOM officials have requested residents to cooperate during the scheduled maintenance work.

Minister urges compassion in tech-driven healthcare

Dr. Patil stressed ethics and compassion in healthcare, while Dinesh Gundu Rao highlighted rising demand for physiotherapy professionals

MANGALURU

Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash R. Patil has said that doctors must continue to follow patient-centered care and compassion even as modern healthcare rapidly adopts advanced technologies like artificial intelligence, data analytics, and precision medicine.

He made these remarks while inaugurating the International Physiotherapy Conference "Mangaluru Physiocon 2026" organized by the South Canara Physiotherapy Teachers Association at T.M.A. Pai Hall on Friday.

Dr. Patil said that while technology is transforming the medical field, ethical values and human care should never be ignored. He stressed that science without humanity loses its purpose, and healthcare without compassion loses its true meaning.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao highlighted the growing importance of physiotherapy, saying that demand for professionals in the field will increase significantly in the coming years. He noted that rising cases of non-communicable diseases and the increasing elderly population worldwide are driving this demand.

Dr. Yajna Unmesh Shukla, Chairperson of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions, delivered the introductory address, focusing on strengthening allied health services in the country.

Other dignitaries present included Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Chancellor Dr. B.C. Bhagavan, Manipal Academy of Higher Education Pro-Chancellor Dr. Dilip Naik, Indian Association of Physiotherapists International Affairs Chair Dr. Ali Irani, President Dr. Sanjeev K. Jha, and Dr. Ruchi Varsneyi, head of the women's section of the association.

Vice-Chancellor of Yenepoya University Dr. Abdullah Kunhi and several senior health professionals also attended the event.

Speakers collectively emphasized the need to balance innovation with empathy, ensuring that technological progress in healthcare always prioritizes patient welfare and human dignity.

Minister orders swift action on river encroachments

The minister ordered removal of illegal construction waste near Sultan Battery riverbank, while officials confirmed FIR registration and inspections by environmental and CRZ authorities

MANGALURU

Health and Family Welfare and Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has directed officials to take immediate action to remove encroachments and restore the natural flow of the Sultan Battery river area. He issued the instructions while chairing a meeting of concerned officials at the District Collector's office on Friday, focusing on preventing pollution of major rivers such as Netravati, Nandini, Phalguni, and Shambavi.

The minister took serious note of reports that construction waste had been illegally dumped on the banks of the river near Sultan Battery. He ordered officials to clear the encroachment without delay and restore the river to its original condition.

Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner Ravichandra Naik informed the meeting that a police case had already been registered against those responsible for dumping construction debris along the riverbank. Environmental officials and Coastal Regulation Zone authorities also reported that inspections had been conducted and necessary reports submitted.

Officials said pollution levels in the Nandini river near Suratkal and Mukka have reduced following improvements in waste treatment systems. They added that waste water discharge from private institutions has also decreased.

The minister also reviewed complaints regarding pollution in the Kulur river caused by waste from the Baikampady industrial area. Officials informed that a ₹39 crore tender has been floated for constructing a treatment plant, and land has already been allocated by KIADB.

He further instructed authorities to provide underground drainage facilities in Angargundi and Kudumbur residential areas and ensure proper connection to the treatment plant near Tokur Baggundi. Officials, including Deputy Commissioner Raju K., Zilla Panchayat CEO Vinayak Karbari Naravade, and Mangaluru Sub-Divisional Officer Meenakshi Arya, attended the meeting.

Minister said Chintamani is rapidly growing, urging planned layouts, proper infrastructure, and strict authority monitoring for quality development

CHINTAMANI SET FOR PLANNED MODERN URBAN GROWTH

CHINTAMANI

Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar announced that the Chintamani Urban Development Authority has been formed to help transform the city into a modern and well-equipped urban centre.

He spoke to reporters after chairing the first general meeting at the new office of the authority located in the Taluk Panchayat building on Friday. The minister said Chintamani is already one of the fastest growing cities in the district and is attracting people from nearby areas including Srinivasapur in Kolar district and Shidlaghatta taluk.

Due to this steady migration, the city is expanding quickly and requires proper planning to avoid unorganised development. He stressed that new residential layouts on the outskirts must follow government rules and guidelines strictly. Roads in these developing areas should be built wide and properly connected to the main city. He also highlighted the need for good drainage systems, street lighting, water supply, and other basic facilities in all new layouts. The authority will play an important role in inspecting, monitoring, and ensuring that all developments meet quality standards.

The minister added that planned growth will improve living conditions and prevent future problems in the city. District Collector G Prabhu, Urban Development Authority Chairman Srinath Baburedy, and other officials and staff attended the meeting and discussed development plans. Officials expressed commitment to support systematic growth efforts.

Vinay Guruji pays tribute to Kempegowda

SAKLESHPUR

Avadhoota Vinay Guruji paid floral tributes to the statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda at the main circle in Sakleshpur during his visit to the town. The event was attended by local leaders and residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Guruji described Kempegowda as not only the founder of Bengaluru but also a visionary ruler and a people-friendly administrator. He said Kempegowda's leadership, development ideas, and efforts to unite society continue to inspire people even today.

Guruji added that Kempegowda's values, culture, and development vision have left a strong mark on Karnataka's history. He emphasized that his patriotism and concern for the public serve as a guiding light for the younger generation.

The tribute event witnessed the presence of former MLA H.M. Vishwanath, H.K. Kumaraswamy, and Jayaprakash Doddeene, among others. The gathering paid respect to Kempegowda's legacy and remembered his contributions to the growth of the region.

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.6/2026

Petitioners: **Sri.Machikkanna.N.H** S/o Late Hanumantharayappa Aged about 50 years, R/ at Naranahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others. V/S
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura and others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the brother of petitioner No.1, 3 to 6 and son of petitioner No.2 by name LATE RAJANNA.N.H S/O LATE HANUMANTHARAYAPPA who died on 10.03.2006 at Naranahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 13.05.2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 10 day of April 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
Advocate: T.J.**Shivakumar**, Sri Guru Raghavendra Law Chambers, Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojipura, Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF II ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL MIS NO 1204 /2025

PETITIONER: Sri.Siddalingappa and Others S/o Giriyappa, Aged about 54 years, R/at # 98, Chikkabanavara post Keregudahalli,near government school,Bengaluru-560090. V/S
RESPONDENT: Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners as filed the above petition undersection 13(3) of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of their Father by name Late Giriyappa s/o Obalappa who died on 10.04.1985 at Koluru Village, Doddaballapur Taluk Bengaluru Rural District. In regard it is hereby noticed that whoevr has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on date 29.5.2026 at 11 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an exparte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the day of 08.04.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner's: **S.Rudraradhya**
509/98, Vaddarapete, Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No. 37/2026

Petitioner: Sri.Nagaraju.N.M S/o Late Muniyappa Aged about 40 ye, rs, R/at Nagashettihalli Village, Majara Cheelenahalli, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother by name LATE LAKSHMAMMA W/O LATE MUNIYAPPA who died on 27.03.1995 at Nagashettihalli Majara Cheelanahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 15.05.2026 at 11:00 AM In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 16th day of 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Anjanegowda.V** , No.1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THIMMARAYAPPA S M S/o S T M DASS, R/o 9/1, Purushottam Road, Ulsoor, H.A.L II Stage, Bangalore East, Bangalore, Karnataka-560008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as S M T KUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATHYAVATHI BANGALORE RANGARAJU (old name), a resident of MARALIGA, KOPPA HOBALI MADDUR TALUK, MANDYA, MANDYA 571419, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to SATYAVATHI BANGALORE RANGARAJU (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for information that I, RAKESH RATAN TIWARI S/o CHHOTE LAL TIWARI, R/o No 1, Trg Bn (AT), ASC Centre (North), Bangalore, Karnataka-560007, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as RAKESH RATTAN TIWARI in my service records. The actual name of mine is RAKESH RATAN TIWARI, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKASH S/o MANJUNATHA KHARVI, R/o 3/263/B, Karavali, Maravanthe, Kundapur, Kundapura, Udupi, Karnataka-576224, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKASH MANJUNATHA KHARVI.

Raichur ZP achieves full tax collection milestone

RAICHUR

The Raichur Zilla Panchayat has achieved 100% tax collection for the financial year 2025–26, earning appreciation from Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh. The achievement has been seen as a major administrative milestone at the local governance level.

In a letter to CEO Ishwar Kumar Kandoo, the Chief Secretary congratulated the team for successfully meeting the tax collection target under gram panchayats. She said it was a proud moment for all those involved in ensuring full collection at the grassroots level. She also praised the coordinated efforts of taluk and gram panchayat officers, development officers, bill collectors, and other staff members. According to her, their dedicated work played a key role in reaching this achievement.

Officials said the success reflects improved efficiency and strong teamwork in the district administration.

Vijayapura focuses on drinking water and land records

VIJAYAPURA

Belagavi Regional Commissioner S. Janaki has directed district authorities in Vijayapura to ensure strict management of drinking water supply during the summer and to prevent misuse of water released into canal networks. She said the water meant for drinking purposes must not be diverted for any other use and should be closely monitored by district and taluk officials.

She was speaking at a progress review meeting held at the city office hall on Friday, where drinking water management and land security scheme issues were discussed in detail. Officials informed that, based on a technical report, 2.30 TMC of water will be released from the Almatti reservoir through canal systems from April 10 to 30 to support drinking water needs.

The Commissioner emphasized that although there is no immediate drinking water shortage for people and livestock, precautionary measures must be taken in taluks that may face scarcity. She also instructed officials to ensure alternative water arrangements wherever necessary.

S. Janaki further stressed the importance of completing the ambitious Jaldhara project on priority, stating that it could provide a long-term solution to recurring summer water problems. She directed officials to resolve technical and administrative issues quickly and implement the project in a time-bound manner.

On land management, she urged officials to actively support the Land Security Scheme, which aims to digitize and protect land records for public convenience. She said all old land documents should be digitized and made easily accessible, especially for farmers.

Math teacher sexually assaults minor in school

CHITRADURGA

In a horrific breach of trust, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped repeatedly by her mathematics teacher H.O. Rajanna inside a Challakere school classroom, leading to her pregnancy and an illegal abortion facilitated by a local doctor.

The abuse came to light when the minor's condition raised alarms. Child Protection Officer Rekha filed a POCSO complaint at Challakere police station, accusing Rajanna of the assaults under Taluk police limits.

To cover tracks, Rajanna arranged the termination at Lakshmi Srinivasa Nursing Hospital, where Dr. Shankaralakshmi performed the prohibited procedure on the minor.

Police registered cases against both under POCSO Act provisions. Moments after the FIR, Rajanna consumed poison and was hospitalized, complicating the probe. Authorities are pursuing arrest warrants while investigating the classroom assaults' timeline and potential additional victims.

The scandal shatters teacher-student sanctity, prompting scrutiny of Challakere school safety and medical ethics. Parents demand stricter oversight amid rising educator misconduct cases in Karnataka.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPURA.
C.Mis. No. 128/2026

Petitioners: Smt. Nagamma and others. V/S.
Respondent: The CMC Doddaballapura.

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

Whereas the above named petitioners have filed the petition in order to seek death certificate of her mother namely Chowdamma W/o Hanumantharayappa who died on 02.03.2005.
Any person or persons having any objections regarding the issuance of death certificate of Chowdamma W/o Hanumantharayappa, can file the necessary objections before the Hon'ble Court.
The above petition is posted on 29..05.2026 for your objections it is hereby called upon the general public is there any objections nor claims in respect of issuance of death certificate of Chowdamma W/o Hanumantharayappa, they can appear before the aforesaid date and time before the Hon'ble court, on the same day if the general public has not come up with any objections the court will decided the petition in your absence.
Given under my hand the seal of this court on this day 10.04.2026. Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge Court at Doddaballapura.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Sri. H.M. Madhusudhana,** Advocates, Sri. Manjunatha Law Chambers, #28, 2nd Floor, PLD Bank Complex, Taluk office Circle, Doddaballapura 561203

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CALL

Hunsur sanitation jobs priority demand sparks petition

HUNSUR

A petition has been submitted to the Municipal Commissioner of Hunsur demanding priority for members of manual scavenger families in the recruitment of sanitation workers by the City Municipal Council. The appeal was led by Ningraj Malladi, state organizing coordinator, along with former municipal presidents Laxman and Kannaiah, and other members of the manual scavenger awareness committee.

The delegation urged authorities to ensure that only eligible candidates from manual scavenger families are given preference during the recruitment process. They also demanded priority for youth from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, citing their social and economic challenges.

Municipal Commissioner Manasa accepted the petition and assured that applications for sanitation worker posts have already been invited. She said the selection process would be conducted transparently and without corruption. The applications will be carefully reviewed and presented to MLA G.T. Harish Gowda before final decisions are made. She also confirmed that priority would be given to manual scavenger families and SC communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Laxman emphasized that the council must consider the hardships faced by such families and ensure fair opportunities. The petitioners also demanded that recruitment should not include upper caste candidates for sanitation work and that the social and economic background of applicants must be assessed before selection.

They further called for abolishing the lottery system and instead adopting direct interviews to ensure deserving candidates are selected. The group also stressed the importance of providing opportunities for women in sanitation jobs.

Several local residents and representatives, including Devendra Kuluvadi and members of the Pourakarmika colony, were present during the submission of the petition, supporting the demand for fair and transparent recruitment practices.

QUICK READ

149 Leopards Die in MP, Accidents Main Cause

BHOPAL

A total of 149 leopards died in Madhya Pradesh over 14 months starting January 2025, according to data obtained through an RTI query. Activist Ajay Dube, who filed the request, called the figures alarming and highlighted the serious risks faced by wildlife. The Forest Department said accidents caused the highest number of deaths, with 31 per cent linked to road mishaps, including 19 on highways. Officials stated that efforts are underway to reduce fatalities and added that a four per cent mortality rate is within acceptable limits.

Man Kills Wife over Remarriage Dispute

CHHATRAPATI, SAMBHAJINAGAR

A man allegedly killed his wife at a fuel pump in Karmad, about 25 km from the city, on Thursday afternoon. Police said the accused, Satyam Gawande, wanted to remarry and had asked his wife Pooja Gawande to leave him, but she refused, leading to a dispute. Around 12:30 pm, he attacked her at her workplace and slit her throat, killing her on the spot. The accused has been arrested, and further investigation is underway. CCTV footage of the incident has surfaced online.

Fire Damages 15 Shops in Lucknow Market

LUCKNOW

A fire broke out at a fruit and vegetable market in the Krishna Nagar area of Lucknow on Thursday night, gutting around 15 shops, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Amit Kumar Anand confirmed that no casualties were reported. Fire brigade and police teams rushed to the spot after receiving information and managed to control the blaze. Officials said the fire likely started due to a short circuit in one shop and quickly spread to nearby shops. A detailed investigation is underway to confirm the exact cause.

PM Modi Praises Harivansh after Rajya Sabha Nomination

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Harivansh Narayan Singh after his renomination to the Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded veteran journalist-turned-politician Harivansh Narayan Singh after President Droupadi Murmu nominated him again to the Rajya Sabha. In a post on X, Modi described Harivansh's contribution to journalism and public life as invaluable and called him a respected thinker and intellectual. He said Harivansh's insights have enriched parliamentary discussions and wished him success for the new term.

Harivansh's renomination comes after his previous term ended on April 9, which had led to speculation about his future role. Observers see the President's decision as a sign of continuity and trust in experienced leadership in Parliament. This will be his third term in the Upper House, reflecting his steady political journey.

He first entered the Rajya Sabha from Bihar in 2014 and later became Deputy Chairman in 2018. He was re-elected to

the post in 2020 and earned praise for his calm and balanced handling of House proceedings, especially during tense political situations.

Before entering politics, Harivansh had a strong career in journalism, where he worked with a regional publication and focused on rural issues and social concerns. His work earned him a reputation as a fair and reliable voice.

His background in journalism has shaped his political approach. As Deputy Chairman, he encouraged dialogue between the government and opposition, promoting balanced discussions and a fact-based approach in Parliament.

Stalin Surprises Chennai Metro Commuters with Ride

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin surprised commuters on Friday by travelling in a metro train and interacting with passengers during his journey across the city.

Stalin boarded the metro at Chennai Central and travelled up to AGDMS, where he spoke to passengers and sought feedback on the DMK government's welfare schemes. His sudden visit created excitement, with many commuters approaching him for selfies and brief conversations.

During the journey, several women passengers appreciated the government's initiatives, including financial support for higher education. They also welcomed the promise of an Rs 8,000 coupon scheme for homemakers if the DMK returns to power. Responding to the feedback, Stalin said the government continues to follow the welfare path set by former leaders C N Annadurai and M Karunanidhi.

He was accompanied by Thousand Lights constituency candidate N Ezhilan, who is contesting for re-election. The interaction gave Stalin an opportunity to directly hear public opinion on governance and ongoing schemes. Later, in a post on social media platform X, Stalin described the metro ride as a journey filled with people's affection and memories of the project's early days. He recalled his role in securing financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency during his tenure as Deputy Chief Minister.

Stalin said the metro's first phase, linking Wimco Nagar to the airport and Central to St Thomas Mount, has served millions. He noted Phase II work is advancing fast. The 116.1 km expansion will connect key areas like Madhavaram and Siruseri.

Mamata Alleges BJP Brought Outsiders for Assam Polls

TENTULIA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday accused the BJP of bringing outsiders to influence the Assam Assembly elections, claiming the party lacked confidence in local voters. Addressing a rally in Tentulia in North 24 Parganas, she alleged that around 50,000 people were transported from Uttar Pradesh to Assam for the polls.

Banerjee said no central agency remained neutral under the BJP-led government and alleged that institutions were being misused. She claimed similar tactics were being attempted in West Bengal ahead of its assembly elections, pointing to the transfer of several police and administrative officers after polls were announced.

She further alleged that money and drugs were being brought into the state to influence voters but expressed confidence that Trinamool

Mamata Banerjee accuses BJP of using outsiders, money, and influence in elections, raising concerns over fairness, voter roll changes, and treatment of Bengal residents in other states.

Congress workers would resist such efforts and secure victory. The Chief Minister also raised concerns over voter roll revisions, claiming that nearly 90 lakh names were removed, including both Hindus and Muslims.

Referring to the NRC exercise in Assam, Banerjee claimed that a majority of those excluded were Hindus, warning people not to trust the BJP. She urged voters to consider her as the party's candidate in all 294 seats, seeking support for another term under her leadership.

Banerjee also alleged that names of Scheduled Caste voters and even electors in her own constituency had been deleted, though she said she remained confident of public support. She criticised the BJP over food choices, claiming restrictions exist in states ruled by the party.

Additionally, she alleged that migrant workers from West Bengal face difficulties in BJP-ruled states and questioned promises of development. She urged the Centre to ensure safety and dignity for Bengal residents living outside the state before making electoral commitments.

PC George Criticises Bishops, Backs FCRA Bill

KOTTAYAM

BJP leader P C George on Friday criticised certain Catholic bishops and asserted that the proposed amendment to the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act (FCRA) will be passed in the Lok Sabha.

George alleged that a bishop from the Kanjirapally diocese had asked nuns to vote for the UDF, questioning the Church's role in political matters.

He said such actions were inappropriate and asked whether the Church was aligned with any political party.

George clarified that his remarks were aimed at only a section of bishops and not the Church as a whole. He claimed that he had worked for the welfare of the Church and criticised those opposing the FCRA amendment.

According to him, the bill only seeks disclosure of foreign funding and will not create difficulties, as assured by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Two Arms Smugglers Held in Uttarakhand Terror Link

RUDRAPUR

Police in Udham Singh Nagar arrested two inter-state arms smugglers for allegedly supplying weapons to a terror associate based in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

The accused, Harendar Singh alias Honey and Nikhil Verma alias Ranu, both aged 27, were caught during a search operation in SIDKUL Phase II. Police intercepted a white Swift car without a number plate and recovered two rifles, two pistols, a revolver, and 344 cartridges.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Ganpati said the accused had supplied arms in 2021 to Rehan Mir alias Irfan Mir, an overground worker linked to the terror group Al Badr. During questioning, the duo revealed plans to hide the weapons in the forests of Chorgalia. Police investigations also found suspicious financial transactions linked to bank accounts in Jammu and Kashmir, including those connected to Rehan. Officials said both Rehan and Harendar Singh are already wanted in a case registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell. Authorities have informed the Jammu and Kashmir Police and Delhi Police about the arrests and are gathering further details on the network. The accused also named Indrajit Sandhu and Pawan Sandhu as key figures behind the operation, and efforts are underway to arrest them.

A case under the Arms Act has been registered, and police are continuing investigations into the suspected terror funding and illegal arms supply network.

POCSO Case Filed against Viral Girl's Husband

BHOPAL

A case has been registered under the POCSO Act against Farman, husband of Monalisa, known as the "Mahakumbh viral girl," after authorities confirmed she is a minor.

Khargone Police also invoked sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita related to criminal conspiracy and unlawful marriage, along with provisions of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act. Officials said records show Monalisa was born on December 30, 2009, making her just over 16 at the time of her marriage on March 11. Monalisa, from the Pardhi tribal community, had gained attention during the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, where she was seen selling rudraksh garlands and became popular on social media. Investigations found the marriage took place in a Kerala temple using Aadhaar details. However, authorities said the birth certificate used during registration was allegedly forged, showing a different date of birth. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribe has ordered its cancellation.

The panel has also raised concerns over possible involvement of certain individuals and organisations in arranging the marriage.

COST AUDIT PUSH

Governor Urges Stronger Cost Audit for Viksit Bharat

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Friday highlighted the importance of strengthening the Cost Audit system to support India's goal of becoming a developed nation under the Viksit Bharat vision.

Speaking at a national seminar on "Cost Audit for Viksit Bharat" organised by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI), the Governor said that economic growth must be supported by efficiency, transparency, and responsible use of resources. He noted that the idea of a developed India is not just about expansion, but about ensuring that every rupee spent contributes to national progress.

Describing Cost Audit as a key tool of economic governance, he said it helps reduce waste, improve efficiency, and ensure better use of resources across sectors. He added that in today's global market, India must focus not only on innovation and quality but also on cost competitiveness to stay ahead.

The Governor pointed out that as India signs more Free Trade Agreements and faces rising global competition, Cost Audit becomes an important method for performance review, continuous improvement, and better decision-making.

He also stressed its role in maintaining transparency and accountability, especially in sectors like infrastructure, energy, healthcare, telecom, and education.

He added that emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence and data infrastructure also require proper cost monitoring, as pricing directly affects citizens.

Referring to his role as Chancellor of 29 universities in Maharashtra, the Governor said many students are still unaware of career opportunities in cost accounting. He urged ICMAI to increase outreach in colleges, particularly in smaller towns, to attract more students to the profession.

The seminar focused on how Cost Audit can improve efficiency, build trust among stakeholders, and support value creation while aligning with the broader goal of Viksit Bharat.

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga – 577 204
No.:WPSS/A2/Outsource-Tender/CR-01/26-27 D: 04.04.2026
e-Tender Notice
It is proposed to avail Human Resource Services of various cadres required at the Office The Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga for the financial year 2026-27 through Registered Outsourcing Firm Registered as Forest Contractors in this office or any Forest Division as Forest Contractors. Approx. amount of Tender is Rs. 51.56 lakhs and those who are eligible and interested can participate in the tender by confirming the details as published in the e-Administrative Center or website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in within 4.30 PM on 21.04.2026. For more information Phone No.: 08182-250785 of this office can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/-(Veereshagowda Police Patil) Deputy Conservator of Forests, and Technical Assistant of Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/51/04/56

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, M.P. Division
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara.
e-mail: **eempdrmgm@gmail.com. Ph: 080-27271259**
No.: EE/MPDiv./RMN/TND-01/2026-27 Date: 02.04.2026
Corrigendum No.1/2026-27 dt. 09.04.2026
(Through kpp Portal Only)
The tender invited from eligible contractors for the works of Nelamangala constituency through Karnataka Public Procurement portal has been postponed due to technical reason and all terms and condition remains unchanged. Last Date for receipt tenders is **date: 15.04.2026 up to 4.00 PM,** opening of technical bid is **date: 16.04.2026 at 4.30 PM** and opening of financial bid is **date: 21.04.2026 at 11.00 AM**. For other details please visit the above website.
Tender details can be downloaded from the website- **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
M.P. Division, Ramanagara
DIPR/BSD/05(A)/SA/2026-27

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru-560070
No.: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/02/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026
KPPP SHORT TERM SERVICE TENDER NOTICE
Two Cover System
Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, for Third Party Service details can obtained from the kppp web-site. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **17.04.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from web-site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist., Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/LC/152/2026-27

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Division, YEDIYUR-572 142.
Ph: 7338590199 E-mail eeyediyur1@gmail.com
KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO. 01/2026-27 Dt: 08.04.2026
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) - (Through KPPP only)
On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal. Division, Yediyur the undersigned invites tender on item rate basis from contractors for 1 Work. The amount put to tender is 263.04 lakhs & Minimum amount put to tender is 215.47 Lakhs. The Time Fixed for completion the work is 05 Months. EMD Amount and Processing fees should be paid through KPP Portal. The last date for tender Queries/Clarifications is 13.04.2026 up to 4.00 pm, The last date for Receival of tenders along with EMD'S is 21.04.2026 up to 4:00 pm. Technical Bid will be opened on 22.04.2026 at 4.00 pm.
For more information contact www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-Exccutive Engineer
Hemavathy canal division, CNNL, Yediyur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿ&ಎ/034/2026–27

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. itstaff ulb bashettihalli1@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬಾ.ಪ.ಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/06/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.04.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಾಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್‌ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-1 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಡಾಂಬರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚರಂಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕೆರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಚರಂಡಿಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ, ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಪಿ.ಇ. ಪೈಪ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್ಸ್ ಪೋಲ್ಸ್, ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು **ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 306.26 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಒಟ್ಟು 22 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀ.ಎಸ್.ಪ್ರೇಮ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ. ಶ್ವೇತಾ ಮುರಳಿಧರ್, ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಹಿ/– ಪಿ. ನರಸಿಂಹಮೂರ್ತಿ. ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/135/ಠಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

QUICK READ

Police Dog 'Check' Wins National Gold after Years

GANDHINAGAR

A sniffer dog from the Gujarat Police won a national gold after 16 years at the 69th All India Police Duty Meet held in Nagpur. 'Check' secured first place in the tracking category and also won a bronze overall at the 2025–26 event. Around 200 dogs participated in multiple categories. DGP K. L. N. Rao honoured 'Check' and handler Ramesh Khant for the achievement.

Raghav Chadha Says Work Will Speak For Itself

NEW DELHI

Raghav Chadha on Friday said his work in Parliament will speak for itself amid a rift with the Aam Aadmi Party. He shared a video titled "Voice Raised Price Paid," showing his speeches on public issues. The response comes days after AAP removed him as Rajya Sabha deputy leader on April 2, accusing him of being soft on Narendra Modi. Chadha denied the claims, calling them false and said he focuses on raising public concerns.

INDIA VOICES CONCERN OVER CIVILIAN DEATHS IN LEBANON CONFLICT

India has expressed deep concern over rising civilian casualties in Lebanon amid ongoing Israeli strikes

NEW DELHI

India on Friday raised serious concern over the worsening situation in Lebanon, where continued military strikes by Israel have led to heavy civilian casualties despite a fragile ceasefire. Addressing a briefing, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, described the situation as disturbing and stressed that protecting civilians remains India's top priority.

He noted that India has consistently supported peace and stability in the region and is concerned about the safety of around 1,000 Indian nationals currently residing in Lebanon. India is also a troop-contributing nation to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, reflecting its commitment to regional peace.

Jaiswal emphasised that all parties must respect international law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. He added that India's embassy in Lebanon is closely monitoring the situation and remains in contact with Indian citizens to ensure their safety.

The tensions continue despite a two-week ceasefire linked to understandings involving the United States and Iran. However, differences remain over whether Israeli actions against Hezbollah targets are covered under the truce, complicating diplomatic efforts.

According to reports, fresh attacks have caused significant casualties, with Lebanese authorities reporting hundreds of deaths. Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that operations against Hezbollah will continue, asserting there is no ceasefire in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam is expected to visit Washington for discussions, as efforts continue to prevent further escalation and restore stability in the region.

Boost Women's Role in Lawmaking, Says Birla

PANAJI

Om Birla on Friday stressed the need to increase women's representation in legislative bodies, saying India's progress depends on greater participation of women in policymaking and lawmaking.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Zone VII Conference in Goa, he said women are performing well in sectors like business, education and science, and their presence in legislatures must rise accordingly.

Birla said representation of women should be strengthened at all levels, from panchayats to state assemblies and Parliament, to ensure they play a bigger role in shaping laws. He added that India's Constitution has evolved through timely amendments to meet changing needs and must continue to reflect inclusive values.

Om Birla calls for stronger women's representation in legislatures, highlighting its importance for inclusive governance, democratic growth, and achieving India's long-term development goals.

He also highlighted the importance of public participation in strengthening democracy.

Referring to the two-day conference, he said young legislators shared ideas and held meaningful discussions on key issues, adding that such insights should reach people at the grassroots level.

Birla emphasised that empowering young lawmakers will be important in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047. He also pointed out that coastal states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa have shown how challenges can be turned into opportunities through tourism, trade and environmental protection.

Meanwhile, Narendra Modi also supported women's reservation in legislatures, calling it the need of the hour.

The Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to implement the Women's Reservation Act, ensuring 33 per cent reservation for women from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides one-third reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies, marking a major step towards inclusive governance.

CBSE Orders Immediate Rollout Of Third Language Policy

NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education has directed all affiliated schools to introduce a third language in Class 6 within seven days, marking a major step in curriculum reform.

The order, issued through a circular dated April 9, makes it compulsory for schools to implement the three-language formula from the 2026–27 academic session. The board described the directive as urgent and mandatory, asking all schools to comply within a strict one-week deadline.

CBSE clarified that lack of textbooks will not be accepted as a reason for delay. Schools have been instructed to begin teaching the third language using locally available materials until official books are released.

Institutions must also finalise the language they plan to offer and update details on the OASIS portal.

The board said its regional offices will closely monitor the rollout to ensure proper implementation. This decision is important for students, as only languages introduced in Class 6 will be available for study in Classes 9 and 10, making early selection crucial.

The move follows the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, which promotes multilingual learning through the R1, R2 and R3 system. Under this model, students learn a mother tongue or regional language, along with English or another Indian language, and a third additional language.

CBSE stated that the aim is to improve students' language skills, cultural understanding and national integration. The curriculum will focus on developing communication, reading, writing and comprehension abilities.

Officials added that the approach will combine speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to help students gain confidence and use language effectively in daily life situations across different contexts.

India Japan Discuss West Asia Tensions, Shipping Concerns

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a phone conversation with Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Friday to discuss the evolving situation in West Asia and concerns over international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The call lasted around 20 minutes and focused on regional stability and energy security.

During the discussion, Jaishankar thanked Motegi for expressing condolences over the loss of Indian lives in the ongoing conflict.

Both leaders exchanged views on the impact of rising tensions in the Middle East and the importance of ensuring safe maritime movement in the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil supplies. The Japanese Foreign Minister welcomed the recent announcement by the United States and Iran regarding a temporary ceasefire, calling it a positive step towards reducing tensions. He stressed the importance of de-escalation and maintaining secure navigation routes in the region.

Jaishankar assured that India would continue to work closely with Japan and the international community to promote peace and stability. Both leaders agreed on the need for stronger multilateral cooperation to improve energy resilience and ensure uninterrupted supply of resources.

They also emphasised maintaining close communication between the two countries as the situation develops.

Pranay Verma Named India Ambassador to Belgium and European Union

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday announced that Pranay Verma has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Belgium and the European Union.

Verma, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh. According to the official statement, he is expected to take up his new assignment shortly. The appointment comes at a time when India and the European Union are strengthening their economic ties. Earlier this year, both sides concluded negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on January 27. The agreement aims to boost trade in goods, services and investments, and is expected to come into force by early 2027. Officials said the FTA is designed to support emerging sectors of the Indian economy and create a modern trade framework. A major focus is on engineering and manufacturing, with India aiming to achieve 300 billion US dollars in engineering exports. The agreement will also provide better access for Indian businesses to the European market, which is valued at around 2 trillion dollars. This is expected to improve India's global competitiveness and help its industries become part of European supply chains.

Special attention has been given to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and regional industrial clusters. The goal is to help them expand operations and secure global contracts. The European Union remains one of India's largest trading partners. In the financial year 2024-25, trade in goods between India and the EU reached 136.54 billion US dollars. Trade in services also saw strong growth, reaching 83.10 billion US dollars.

Together, India and the European Union account for a significant share of global trade and economic activity, making the partnership important for future growth and development.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-01 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10/04/2025
(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ e-procurement portal ನಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉಡುಪಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರಿಂದ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ infrastructure for Karnataka Public School (4202- 01-201-0-06(139)) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Documents for Procurement of Works) ನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ
2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ infrastructure for Karnataka Public School (4202-01-201-0-06 (139))					
1	Constructions of 3 Class rooms to Primary School Section and 3 Class room to High School Section in K.P.S. Bidkalkatte of Kundapura Taluk (RDPR2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25661)	106.47	89.05	178109.00	3 ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು

Tender should coat separatly of each items in web site portal
1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10-04-2026 ರಿಂದ 22-04-2026ರ 4:30.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23-04-2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30.01 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.
ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ.

CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Teguru, Chikkamagaluru-577133.
Ph: 08262-295347 E-Mail: directorcims2020@gmail.com
Website: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in
No: CIMS/APPO/NON TEACHING/06/2026-27 Date: 06-04-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR NON TEACHING STAFF RECRUITMENT AT CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU

Applications are invited for recruitment of the following contractual staff on consolidated payat Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences Chikkamagaluru.

Sl.No	Name of the post	No.of posts called	Nature of
1	Medical Record Technician	01	The initial period of appointment is for 06 month and shall be Extendable every 6 months with one day break based on perfor mance report submitted by the head of the concerned department
2	Audio- Visual Technician	01	
3	Dental Technician	01	
4	OT Technician	03	
5	Ventilator Technician	01	
6	Oxygen Technician	01	
	Total	**08**	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The terms and conditions of staff to be employed in CIMS, Chikkamagaluru will be as per guidelines of implementation of rules and regulation by Department of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka. **2.** Qualification & Pay: As per notification and guidelines by Department of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka. **3.** The appointment shall be on contract basis on monthly consolidatedr emuneration. **4.** Appointments shall be bound by CIMS Chikkamagaluru, Bye-laws and C & R rules, and KCSR Rules wherever applicable. **5.** Candidates working in Government sector/ Government Autonomous Medical colleges must produce "No Objection Certificate" from Head of the institute/Competent Authority in which the candidate is presently working.
6. Candidates shall send their duly filled application forms & other relevant attachments duly self- attested by REGISTRED POST ONLY to the DEAN AND DIRECTOR, CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, TEGURU VILLAGE, CHIKKAMAGALURU-577 133
7. Candidate should mentionon the top of application envelop"Name of the post applied:-
8. Last date of receipt of application to the official address is before 5.00 PM on 23-04-2026. **9.** In person submission of application shall not been tertained. **10**. The Candidates should submit application form along with D.Dinfavorof "TheDirector, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences" Payable at Chikkamagaluru. **11**. No TA DA will be paid to the Candidates. **12.** For more details on application forms, visit our website:https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in
Note: If any candidate wishes to apply for more than one post, he/she shall fill application forms for desired posts separately and shall attach Demand Draft for each post separately. APPLICATION FEES ARE NON REFUNDABLE.

Sd/- Dean & Director, CIMS. Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/ckm//ksmca/26-27/07/67

CLEAN COOKING TECH

India Showcases Electric Stove As LPG Alternative

NEW DELHI

India is moving towards energy self-reliance by promoting new cooking technologies amid global fuel shortages.

Amid global concerns over gas shortages due to the Middle East conflict, India is exploring alternatives to traditional cooking fuel. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi recently demonstrated an innovative electric stove that produces a flame similar to LPG without using gas, marking a step towards cleaner energy solutions.

The central government has already focused on expanding PNG connections across the country, targeting 50 lakh households. Along with this, it is now considering large-scale production of the electric stove, which can function like a regular gas stove while using electricity.

Pralhad Joshi, who also handles Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, said the new stove can generate a strong flame without LPG. He highlighted that the technology could benefit both households and commercial users, including hotels and bakeries.

The stove is seen as a promising solution for people facing cooking gas shortages. It also supports the vision of Narendra Modi to make India self-reliant under the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

Officials said the electric stove produces high heat similar to LPG and does not emit carbon, making it an eco-friendly option.

The minister added that he was impressed with the performance of the new technology.

He urged Indian manufacturers to adopt this system and produce such stoves in large numbers within the country. The government also plans to introduce different models suitable for domestic and commercial use.

Further, Pralhad Joshi suggested linking the stove with the PM Surya Ghar Yojana to reduce dependence on LPG.

Experts are also discussing hydrogen-based cooking systems as another alternative, where gas can be produced using water, offering a cleaner future energy source.

QUICK READ

Reports warns Middle East conflict hurts Asia growth

Manila

Reports have warned that the ongoing Middle East conflict is increasing global risks and slowing growth in developing Asia-Pacific economies. In the report, it has been projected regional growth to ease to 5.1% in 2026 and 2027 under stable conditions, down from 5.4% in 2025. If tensions continue longer, growth could fall further and inflation may rise sharply. The report said higher energy prices, trade disruptions, and tighter financial conditions are key concerns. Officials cautioned that continued instability could affect prices, supply chains, and overall economic recovery across the region.

Russia rejects UK submarine activity claim

London

The Russian Embassy in the United Kingdom has rejected claims by British Defence Secretary John Healey about Russian submarine activity in the North Atlantic. The embassy said the allegations were not credible or verifiable and dismissed reports of threats to undersea cables and pipelines. Earlier, the UK said it had tracked suspected Russian naval movements during a joint operation with Norway. Britain maintained that its forces were deployed to protect critical infrastructure. The embassy warned against what it called aggressive statements and blamed Western countries for rising tensions over maritime security.

Sea temperatures near record as El Niño risks rise

Brussels

Global sea surface temperatures reached their second-highest level ever recorded in March, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service. The report said ocean temperatures are close to the peaks seen during the last El Niño event, raising the chances of another warming phase later this year. March 2026 also ranked as the fourth-warmest March globally, with temperatures far above pre-industrial levels. Experts warned that a possible shift to El Niño conditions could intensify heatwaves, droughts, and extreme weather.

India and Mauritius to strengthen bilateral ties

S. Jaishankar met Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool to strengthen diplomatic ties, highlighting India's "Neighborhood First" policy and regional cooperation

PORT LOUIS

India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, met with Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool to discuss ways to deepen the long-standing friendship between the two nations. During the meeting, Jaishankar shared warm greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, signaling the high value India places on this partnership.

The visit highlighted a busy diplomatic schedule for the minister. Beyond his talk with the President, Jaishankar also met with Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and former leader Pravind Kumar Jugnauth. These discussions covered a wide range of important topics, including health, education, technology, and maritime security. Both nations expressed a strong commitment to working together more closely in the Indian Ocean region.

"Our partnership has seen remarkable progress over the last year," Jaishankar noted, pointing to successful cooperation in development and people-to-people ties.

The leaders also discussed global issues, such as recent developments in West Asia and how they might affect regional stability.

This trip is part of a larger diplomatic mission. While in Mauritius, Jaishankar also attended the 9th Indian Ocean Conference to promote regional safety and growth. His journey continues tomorrow as he heads to the United Arab Emirates. There, he will meet with UAE leaders to further strengthen India's strategic and economic bonds in the Middle East. For now, the successful meetings in Port Louis reinforce Mauritius's role as a key partner in India's "Neighborhood First" policy.

Jaishankar, Motegi discuss West Asia shipping concerns

Port Louis: India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi over the phone to review recent developments in West Asia. The leaders mainly discussed the security of international shipping routes, especially through the Strait of Hormuz, a key passage for global oil trade. Jaishankar noted on social media that the conversation also included condolences from Japan over the loss of Indian lives in the ongoing conflict. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important sea routes, linking the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, and any disruption there can impact global energy supplies. The talks come shortly after a ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran and ahead of planned peace discussions. India and Japan have recently strengthened their strategic partnership, focusing on defence, technology, and economic security. Both sides continue to support stability and safe trade in the region amid rising global tensions.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE AGREE TO EASTER CEASEFIRE

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a temporary Easter ceasefire starting April 11, offering a brief reprieve from combat despite ongoing diplomatic and territorial stalemates.

MOSCOW

In a rare moment of pause for the ongoing conflict, Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared a temporary ceasefire to observe Orthodox Easter. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has confirmed that Kyiv is willing to match the move, offering a brief window of peace for civilians and soldiers alike. The ceasefire is scheduled to begin at 4:00 PM Moscow time on April 11 and will run through the end of April 12. During this period, Russian troops have been ordered to halt all combat operations across all fronts. However, the Kremlin clarified that its forces remain instructed to "repel any possible provocations" or attacks during the break. President Zelensky welcomed the pause, noting that Ukraine had previously proposed a holiday truce. "People need an Easter free from threats," Zelensky posted on social media, adding that he hopes this small step could lead to a more permanent movement toward peace.

While the holiday truce offers a temporary reprieve, the path to a permanent end to the war remains difficult

- **Stalled Negotiations:** Formal peace talks have seen little movement in recent months
- **The Donbass Hurdle:** Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated Moscow's stance that a full stop to military action requires Ukraine to withdraw troops from the Donbass region
- **Political Responsibility:** Russian officials stated that while there is no "hard deadline" for withdrawal, doing so would be a necessary step toward a diplomatic settlement.

This ceasefire marks one of the few instances of agreed-upon pauses since the conflict began, providing a much-needed, if brief, moment of calm for the Easter holiday.

Japan taps into oil reserves to help

TOKYO

Japan is digging deeper into its emergency energy stashes to keep the lights on and the cars moving. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi announced that the nation will release another 20 days' worth of oil reserves starting this May.

This move builds on a massive effort that began in mid-March, when the government first started tapping into its 50-day supply. The goal is simple, keep the country's fuel supply steady while the world watches a fragile situation in the Middle East. While a recent ceasefire deal between the United States and Iran has offered a glimmer of hope, the Prime Minister isn't taking any chances.

The heart of the concern lies in the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow waterway is the lifeblood of global energy, and Japan relies on it for over 90 percent of its crude oil. Even with the two-week truce, no one is quite sure when ships will be able to pass through safely again.

"We will take every possible measure to ensure a stable supply," Takaichi told reporters. In a bit of good news, she noted that by May, Japan expects to find new routes for more than half of its oil imports that bypass the troubled waterway entirely.

The announcement follows a high-stakes phone call between Takaichi and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. During the talk, Japan urged Iran to guarantee safe passage for international ships, hoping to cool down the regional heat before the tanks run dry.

Nepal's economic growth is projected to drop to 2.7%, slowed by regional conflict, youth protests, and rising global oil prices

GLOBAL WARS AND PROTESTS SLOW NEPAL'S GROWTH

KATHMANDU

Nepal's economy is facing a tough year. A new report warns that the country's growth will drop to 2.7% this year, a sharp fall from last year's 4.6%. Experts say two major problems are to blame, those are the ongoing war between the U.S. and Iran, and the "Gen-Z" protests that shook Nepal last September.

The youth-led protests, sparked by social media bans and a lack of jobs, eventually led to the government's resignation. While a new government was elected in March to bring back stability, the damage to business remains. However, the biggest threat now comes from abroad. The conflict in West Asia is causing global oil prices to climb, which makes everything more expensive in Nepal.

Because many Nepalis work in the Gulf, the war also threatens the money they send home. These "remittances" make up a huge part of Nepal's wealth. Additionally, the war has disrupted flights at major travel hubs, meaning fewer tourists are arriving for the spring climbing season.

Every part of the economy is feeling the pinch. Farmers are struggling after floods ruined crops, and builders are slowing down because investors are nervous. The report notes that Nepal is currently performing worse than most of its neighbors in South Asia. While the new political leadership offers some hope for reform, the road to recovery depends heavily on whether global conflicts settle down soon.

Bangladesh minority group reports 133 violent attacks

DHAKA

A leading human rights group has sounded the alarm over a wave of communal violence that swept across Bangladesh during this year's election season. The Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council reported that 133 incidents occurred between January and March, leaving minority and indigenous communities in a state of deep anxiety.

The report notes that while January saw 46 incidents, the violence peaked in February with 50 recorded attacks. Even after the new government, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), took office, 37 more incidents were documented in March. The Council had hoped that political change would bring safety, but they say the "persistence" of these crimes has left minorities feeling unprotected. In response, the Council is calling on the government to take immediate action.

Month (2026)	Incidents	Key Reported Crimes
January	46	11 killings, 9 temple attacks, house looting
February	50	8 killings, 15 temple attacks, kidnappings
March	37	6 killings, 11 temple attacks, land grabbing

Awami League warns of rising democratic risks

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Awami League has raised strong concerns over actions taken by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party government, warning that recent political decisions could harm the country's democratic system. In a statement, the party said that laws introduced during the previous interim government led by Muhammad Yunus have now been continued and turned into official legislation. It argued that banning a political party through law is against democratic principles and weakens political freedom in Bangladesh. The Awami League also criticised the arrest of former parliament speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, calling it unfair and politically motivated. It alleged that several of its leaders and supporters have faced arrests, harassment, and legal cases. The party further claimed that political repression and misuse of state power are increasing, leading to instability. It urged the government to restore a fair political environment and protect democratic values, warning that continued pressure on opposition voices could create deeper unrest and affect the country's political future.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

1			9	7		3		6
9		8	4		5	1	2	
3	7		1	2				4
	2	7	3	6		5		1
		1		5			6	
	3	6		1	9	8	4	
	5	4	2		3	6	1	
	1	9	6	8		4	3	
6		3	5	4		2		9

7	6	1	9	3	4	8	5	2
5	9	4	8	2	1	3	6	7
3	8	2	6	7	5	9	1	4
2	1	8	3	5	6	7	4	9
9	3	6	1	4	7	2	8	5
4	5	7	2	8	9	6	3	1
1	2	9	5	6	8	4	7	3
8	4	5	7	9	3	1	2	6
6	7	3	4	1	2	5	9	8

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Pakistani students protest about exam shift

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Students in northern Pakistan staged protests after authorities suddenly shifted their examination centres without prior notice. The change caused confusion and disruption during ongoing exams, leading angry students to block roads and demand answers from officials. Reports also said allegations of misconduct by authorities added to public frustration. In a separate development, the demolition of several shops sparked strong backlash from local traders, who called the action unfair and damaging to livelihoods. The twin incidents have raised tensions in the region, with residents demanding transparency and fair treatment from authorities.

SOUTH KOREA SENDS ENVOY TO SECURE SHIPS

SEOUL

South Korea is taking a major step to protect its people and ships moving through the tense Middle East. The government named Chung Byung-ha, a veteran diplomat and former ambassador to Kuwait, as a special envoy to Iran.

The decision comes at a critical moment. Right now, 26 ships linked to South Korea are stuck in the Strait of Hormuz. While Iran has promised safe passage, they have also warned of attacks on any vessels that try to pass through without their direct permission. Mr. Chung's mission is to head to Tehran immediately to coordinate with Iranian officials and ensure that Korean sailors and cargo can move safely through these dangerous waters.

This diplomatic move follows a high-level phone call between South Korea's Foreign Minister, Cho Hyun, and Iran's Abbas Araghchi. Their goal is not just to free the stranded ships, but to discuss broader peace in the region.

JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS SHIFT

Japan drops 'Most Important' tag for China

TOKYO

Japan has officially softened its language toward China in its latest diplomatic report, signaling a cooling in relations between the two neighbors. The 2026 Diplomatic Bluebook, now describes China simply as an "important neighboring country." This is a notable step down from the 2025 version, which called the relationship "one of the most important" for Japan.

The shift follows a year of rising tension. In November, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi angered Beijing by suggesting that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be seen as a threat to Japan's survival, potentially triggering a military response. China, which views Taiwan as its own territory, reacted sharply to the comments.

The new report also highlights Japan's growing frustration with what it calls "coercive measures" from China. It specifically mentions incidents where Chinese military planes targeted Japanese aircraft with radar and notes new restrictions on trade. Japanese officials are particularly worried about security, with Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi recently defending Japan's push to strengthen its military. Koizumi pointed out that while China is the world's fourth-largest arms exporter, Japan doesn't even make the top 50.

Despite the downgrade in wording, Japan says it isn't closing the door on its neighbor. The report states that Tokyo is still willing to hold talks and remains committed to keeping the Indo-Pacific region "free and open." However, for now, the change in labels makes it clear that trust between the two powers is at a low point.

New pickleball court opens in J&K

The CRPF's 84 Battalion has launched Jammu and Kashmir's first pickleball court, promoting fitness and community through local sports.

JAMMU

In a significant boost for local sports, the 84 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has inaugurated the first-ever pickleball court in Jammu and Kashmir. The facility was officially opened during a special ceremony aimed at introducing this fast-growing global sport to the region and encouraging physical fitness among both personnel and the local youth.

Pickleball, which combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, has gained massive popularity worldwide due to its easy learning curve and high energy. The new court, located at the battalion headquarters, represents a modern addition to the area's athletic infrastructure. CRPF officials noted that the initiative is part of their ongoing "Civic Action Programme," which seeks to build stronger community ties through shared recreational activities. During the inauguration, senior officers highlighted that sports are a powerful tool for maintaining mental and physical health. By launching the state's first dedicated court, the CRPF hopes to inspire young athletes to move away from sedentary lifestyles and pick up a paddle. The event featured a demonstration match, showcasing the fast-paced nature of the game to curious onlookers and local residents.

The local community has welcomed the move, expressing excitement over having access to a unique sport that was previously unavailable in the valley. Moving forward, the 84 Battalion plans to organize workshops and local tournaments to foster a competitive spirit. This landmark facility marks a new chapter for sports in Jammu and Kashmir, proving that fitness and fun can go hand in hand.

Rai starts strong at Augusta despite late slip

Aaron Rai sits tied for 10th at the 90th Masters after a 71, while Akshay Bhatia trails at one-over in a competitive opening round.

AUGUSTA

Indo-British golfer Aaron Rai delivered an electric opening performance at the 90th Masters, briefly surging into the top three before finishing the first day tied for 10th place. Rai ignited his round with three birdies in the first four holes at Augusta National, eventually signing for a one-under-par 71.

The leaderboard is currently topped by defending champion Rory McIlroy and American Sam Burns, who both fired impressive five-under 67s. Rai remains well within striking distance, trailing the co-leaders by just four strokes as the tournament heads into the second round.

Meanwhile, three-time PGA Tour winner Akshay Bhatia experienced a turbulent back nine. Despite a steady start, the Indian-American pro carded three bogeys and a double bogey after the turn, finishing with a one-over 73. Bhatia currently sits tied for 33rd place in the star-studded field.

The prestigious tournament continues through the weekend, with both Rai and Bhatia looking to climb the rankings at the year's first major. For Rai, maintaining the "fearless" early momentum that saw him dominate the opening holes will be key to challenging the leaders.

Lucknow's own fans and the wider Indian golf community are watching closely as these two talents navigate the challenging "Amen Corner" at Augusta.

India's women's wheelchair basketball team headed to Glasgow

NEW DELHI

In a historic moment for para-sports, the Indian women's 3x3 wheelchair basketball team has officially punched their ticket to the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. This milestone marks a major step forward for the sport within the country.

The team secured their spot through the Asia Oceania qualifiers. In a unique qualifying scenario, India and Australia were the only two nations competing for the regional berths. By participating, both teams successfully claimed their positions to represent their respective continents like Asia and Oceania, on the global stage this summer.

Fans won't have to wait long to see the team in action. The Commonwealth Games are scheduled to run from July 23 to August 2. The fast-paced 3x3 wheelchair basketball tournament will be a highlight of the opening week, held between July 24 and July 29.

This qualification is more than just a tournament entry, it is a testament to the growth of inclusive sports in India. The players, who have trained rigorously to compete at this elite level, will now face some of the best athletes in the world in Scotland.

As the countdown to Glasgow begins, the nation is rallying behind these athletes. Their journey to the Games serves as an inspiring reminder of what can be achieved through dedication and spirit. The team is expected to begin an intensive training camp soon to prepare for the unique challenges of the 3x3 format and the Scottish climate.

R VAISHALI LEADS WHILE SINDAROV TOPPLES CHESS STAR

NEW DELHI

The race for the FIDE Candidates tournament reached a fever pitch as R Vaishali pulled ahead of the pack to take the sole lead in the Women's event. Her commanding performance has placed her in the driver's seat as the competition enters its most critical phase.

While the Indian camp celebrated Vaishali's ascent, the Open category saw a major shift in momentum. Javokhir Sindarov tightened his grip on the standings following a high-stakes victory over India's Praggnanandhaa. The match was a masterclass in tactical precision, with Sindarov capitalizing on a narrow opening to secure a win that reshapes the leaderboard.

For Praggnanandhaa, the loss is a temporary setback in a tournament defined by its razor-thin margins. The young grandmaster remains a formidable contender, but he now faces an uphill battle to close the gap created by Sindarov's recent surge.

The Candidates tournament is the ultimate proving ground, where the world's elite chess players battle for the right to challenge the reigning World Champions. With Vaishali now leading the women's field alone, the pressure shifts to her rivals to find a breakthrough in the coming rounds.

As the tournament progresses in Toronto, all eyes remain on the boards. Every move now carries the weight of a potential title shot, and with local favorites like Vaishali showing world-class form, the excitement among Indian chess fans has never been higher. The next few days will determine who has the stamina to claim the top spot.

LA28 OPENS GLOBAL OLYMPIC TICKET SALES

LOS ANGELES

The organizing committee of the LA28 Olympics has opened global ticket sales after a strong local presale.

Officials said the early phase saw record demand, with over one million low-cost tickets priced at $28 expected to be released.

Many fans rushed to buy seats, though some complained about limited availability and higher-than-expected prices.

Organizers stated that most tickets will remain affordable, with a large share under $400.

The sales drive is seen as key to funding the privately financed $7 billion Games and ensuring financial stability ahead of 2028.

Archer Payal Nag credits coaches for success

NEW DELHI

Rising para-archer Payal Nag has expressed deep gratitude toward her support system following her recent medal-winning performances. The athlete credited her success on the international stage to the unwavering guidance of her coaches and the essential resources provided by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Nag, who has become a prominent name in Indian para-archery, emphasized that her achievements were the result of collective effort. "I was able to give medals to India because of my coaches," she stated, highlighting the specialized training and mental conditioning she received at the Katra-based sports complex. She noted that the Shrine Board's commitment to providing world-class facilities for para-athletes played a pivotal role in her development. The Shrine Board's sports wing has been instrumental in nurturing talent from the region, offering a dedicated environment for athletes to hone their skills. For Nag, the journey from local training grounds to representing the nation involved overcoming significant physical and logistical hurdles and challenges.

Verstappen's top engineer Lambiase heading to McLaren

LONDON

In a major shake-up for Formula One, Red Bull has confirmed that Gianpiero "GP" Lambiase, the longtime race engineer for Max Verstappen, will leave the team in 2028. Lambiase is set to join McLaren, the reigning champions, where he will serve as the Chief Racing Officer under team principal Andrea Stella. The news marks a significant shift for the sport's most famous partnership. Since 2016, Lambiase and Verstappen have won four world championships together. Their blunt, often humorous radio exchanges—once described by former boss Christian Horner as "an old married couple arguing"—have become a staple of race weekends. Lambiase's move follows other key departures from Red Bull, including star designer Adrian Newey and sporting director Will Courtenay.

For Verstappen, the news adds to an uncertain future. The Dutch driver is also contracted through 2028, but he has recently expressed frustration with F1's new engine rules and his own desire to remain in the sport long-term. In the past, Verstappen even claimed he would quit racing if Lambiase ever stopped being his engineer.

While the two will remain together for now, Red Bull faces the difficult task of maintaining their winning form as their top talent migrates to rivals.

McLaren, meanwhile, continues to strengthen its "dream team" of experts as they look to defend their titles against a struggling Red Bull squad. Fans will be watching closely to see if this exit signals the end of Verstappen's historic era.

FIA REVIEWS 2026 F1 RULES CHANGES

The FIA met Formula One teams in London to discuss possible changes to the 2026 rules after an early season review. Officials called the talks a constructive discussion, as teams shared concerns just three races into the new era. The main issue is energy management in the hybrid power units, which use both electric and fuel power in equal measure. Drivers are finding it hard to balance speed and battery use, often lifting off the throttle earlier than expected. To improve racing, the FIA will hold more meetings this month, including sessions on sporting rules and technical details. Another key meeting with all teams is planned for April 20, where final decisions may be shaped before the Miami race in May.

LeBron James leads Lakers to big victory

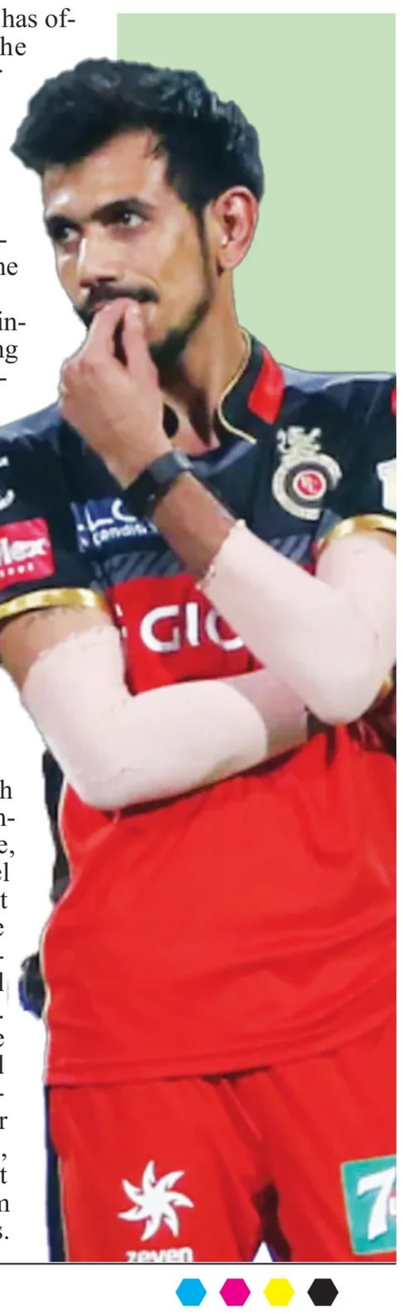
SAN FRANCISCO

LeBron James put on a spectacular performance, leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a much-needed 119-103 win over the Golden State Warriors. The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Lakers and helped them climb higher in the competitive Western Conference standings.

James was nearly unstoppable, finishing the game with 26 points, 11 assists, and eight rebounds. He received plenty of help from his teammates, including Deandre Ayton, who contributed 21 points, and Jake LaRavia, who added 16. In a special moment for fans, Bronny James also reached double digits, scoring 10 points to help secure the win. The game remained close until the fourth quarter when the Lakers went on a massive 24-6 scoring run. They hit their first ten shots of the final period, effectively ending any hopes of a Warriors comeback. Golden State, led by Brandin Podziemski's 17 points, struggled to keep pace while missing star player Stephen Curry due to injury management.

DALE STEYN picks wChahal as best RCB bowler

NEW DELHI



Cricket legend Dale Steyn has officially weighed in on the greatest bowlers to ever wear the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) jersey. The former South African pace ace revealed his all-time top five list, placing spin wizard Yuzvendra Chahal at the very top.

Steyn praised Chahal's incredible consistency, noting that he remains the franchise's leading wicket-taker with 139 scalps. "He strikes every 17 balls," Steyn remarked, highlighting the leg-spinner's knack for changing games. Taking the second spot was current star Josh Hazlewood, whose "magical" strike rate caught Steyn's eye.

The list continued with Australian speedster Mitchell Starc at number three, followed by Harshal Patel at four. Steyn pointed out that Patel's ability to take wickets at crucial moments made him a vital part of RCB's history. Rounding out the top five was the legendary Anil Kumble. Steyn gave special credit to Kumble for mastering the difficult, high-scoring conditions at the Chinnaswamy Stadium during his captaincy years.

U.S. investigates NFL for alleged unfair business

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of Justice has officially launched an investigation into the National Football League (NFL) to determine if the league is using unfair business tactics. The probe focuses on whether the NFL's broadcasting deals are hurting fans by making it too difficult and expensive to watch games.

In recent years, the league has shifted many games away from free local channels to various paid streaming services. Regulators and fans alike have expressed frustration over this trend. According to the Federal Communications Commission, watching every game last season required ten different subscriptions, potentially costing a single fan over $1,500. This shift has raised concerns that "Big Tech" companies are monopolizing sports, which could also weaken local TV news stations that rely on sports broadcasts.

The NFL defended its practices on Thursday, stating that 87% of its games still air on free TV. They emphasized that games are always available for free in the local markets of the teams playing. However, lawmakers are now questioning a 1961 law that allows sports leagues to sell their media rights as a single package, an exemption that usually protects them from antitrust rules.

This investigation aims to see if those old rules still apply in the modern world of digital streaming. As the government looks closer at these multi-billion dollar deals, the goal is to ensure that football remains accessible to the average viewer without requiring a dozen different monthly bills.

QUICK READ

RBI to conduct ₹2 lakh crore VRRR auction

Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct a ₹2 lakh crore 7-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction to absorb excess liquidity. The auction will be held between 2 pm and 2.30 pm, with funds reversed on April 17. Liquidity has surged due to maturities of government securities, including ₹31,329 crore on April 8 and upcoming maturities of ₹86,403 crore and ₹34,791 crore. The banking system surplus is estimated at ₹4.55 lakh crore. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the central bank will remain proactive in managing liquidity while ensuring adequate funds to support economic activity.

IMF reaches staff-level deal with Sri Lanka reforms

Colombo

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached a staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka on economic policies under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF), paving the way for the release of about USD 700 million in financial assistance. The agreement concludes the combined fifth and sixth reviews of Sri Lanka's reform programme. The IMF noted that the country's economic recovery is gaining momentum, supported by strong policy reforms, rising foreign reserves, and better-than-expected growth and revenue performance. Sri Lanka's economy grew by 5 per cent in 2025, while inflation has stabilised and reserves reached around USD 7 billion. The IMF also highlighted progress in debt restructuring and stressed the need to maintain fiscal discipline, improve revenue mobilisation, strengthen social safety nets, and sustain reform momentum to ensure long-term stability and inclusive growth.

India adds record 45 GW solar capacity in FY26

New Delhi

India has achieved a record milestone in its renewable energy journey by adding 45 GW of solar capacity in FY 2025–26, the highest annual addition ever reported in the country. The achievement was highlighted by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who said it reflects India's accelerating shift toward clean and sustainable energy. The sharp rise in solar installations has been driven by strong policy support, large-scale project execution, improved infrastructure, and falling costs of solar technology. This growth significantly strengthens India's position in the global renewable energy landscape and supports its long-term target of expanding non-fossil fuel capacity. The surge in solar energy also helps reduce dependence on conventional power sources while improving energy security and supporting climate goals, marking a major step forward in India's green energy transition.

INDIA REMITTANCES TO HIT RECORD USD 140 BILLION

India's remittances are projected to hit a record USD 140 billion in FY26, driven by strong overseas inflows

NEW DELHI

India's remittance inflows are projected to reach a record high of USD 137–140 billion in FY26, according to a report by SBI Research, reflecting the continued strength of overseas income sent by the Indian diaspora. The estimate underscores India's position as the world's largest recipient of remittances, supported by a large migrant workforce, particularly in West Asia.

The report attributes the surge in inflows to sustained employment opportunities abroad, especially in Gulf Co-

operation Council (GCC) countries, and precautionary transfers driven by geopolitical tensions. It also notes that recent currency movements, including rupee depreciation against the US dollar, have made remittances more valuable in domestic terms.

According to the projections, inflows are expected to slightly moderate to USD 135–137 billion in FY27, but will remain historically strong. The stability reflects a balance between steady overseas employment and potential risks such as job disruptions in energy and construction sectors in the event of prolonged global conflicts.

SBI Research highlights that India's remittance growth has been consistent over recent years, with FY25 already marking record inflows. The momentum is expected to continue, though at a more stable pace rather than sharp acceleration.

At the same time, the report warns that geopolitical instability, especially in West Asia, could impact future inflows through job losses or temporary migration disruptions. However, structural strengths such as India's large diaspora and diversified global employment base continue to provide resilience.

Overall, remittances remain a crucial pillar of India's external economy, supporting household consumption and strengthening foreign exchange reserves even amid global uncertainty.

Instagram introduces stronger teen safety features in India, restricting harmful content and aligning platform standards with age-appropriate 13+ guidelines

Instagram enhances teen safety features with 13+ standards

NEW DELHI

Instagram has rolled out enhanced safety features for teenage users in India, aligning its content policies with standards similar to 13+ movie ratings. The move is part of a broader effort by parent company Meta Platforms to create a safer and more age-appropriate digital environment for users aged 13 to 17.

Under the updated system, teen accounts are automatically placed into stricter content settings. These settings limit exposure to material considered inappropriate for younger audiences, such as explicit content, strong language, risky stunts, or posts that may encourage harmful behavior. The aim is to ensure that teenagers primarily encounter content comparable to what is typically allowed in films rated suitable for those aged 13 and above.

The platform has also introduced improved safeguards across multiple areas. Teens will not be able to follow or interact with accounts that frequently share age-inappropriate content. Additionally, such accounts will be restricted from contacting teens through messages or comments. Search functions have also been tightened, blocking access to sensitive or harmful topics, even when users attempt to bypass filters through misspellings.

Another key feature is the introduction of a "Limited Content" setting, giving parents more control over what their children can view. This stricter mode further filters content and reduces interactions, offering an added layer of protection for younger users.

Overall, the rollout in India reflects growing global concerns about online safety for teenagers, with platforms increasingly adopting stricter policies and parental controls to create a safer social media experience.

ADB ups India's FY27 growth projections to 6.9 pc

NEW DELHI

Asian Development Bank has upgraded India's economic growth projection for FY2026-27, reflecting confidence in the country's domestic strength despite global uncertainties. In its latest Asian Development Outlook report, the ADB projected India's GDP growth at 6.9 per cent for the current fiscal, higher than its earlier estimate of 6.5 per cent released.

The report highlights that India's growth will be driven primarily by strong domestic demand, supported by easing financial conditions and relatively lower US tariffs on Indian exports. These factors are expected to sustain economic momentum even as global conditions remain volatile.

Looking ahead, the ADB expects growth to accelerate further to 7.3 per cent in FY2027-28. This improvement is likely to be fueled by ongoing domestic reforms, increased government spending, and the positive impact of trade agreements, particularly with the European Union. Anticipated salary and pension hikes for government employees are also expected to boost consumption and investment.

However, the report flags potential risks. A prolonged conflict in the Middle East could impact India through higher oil prices, disrupted trade flows, and weaker remittances. Inflation is projected to rise to 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal due to increasing food and energy prices, before easing to 4 per cent in the following year.

Despite these challenges, India's economic outlook remains robust, underpinned by resilient consumption, steady public investment, and improving external demand, positioning the country as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally.

Power demand to rise up to 6% amid heatwave risk

NEW DELHI

India's electricity demand is expected to rise by up to 6% in the current financial year, driven by rising temperatures and the likelihood of led heat conditions, according to a report by CRISIL Intelligence. The forecast highlights how weather patterns continue to play a key role in shaping power consumption across the country.

The report notes that higher-than-normal temperatures are expected to boost demand for cooling appliances such as air conditioners and fans, particularly during peak summer months.

This seasonal surge is likely to push overall electricity usage significantly higher compared to previous years.

Industrial and commercial demand is also expected to contribute to the growth, as economic activity remains steady.

Around half of India's electricity consumption comes from these segments, making manufacturing trends an important driver of overall power demand.

CRISIL added that recent years have already shown strong variability in seasonal consumption, with both winter and summer peaks becoming more pronounced.

Banking stocks lift markets amid positive global trends

MUMBAI

Indian benchmark indices rebounded strongly in early trade, supported by robust buying in banking stocks and positive global cues. The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 630.08 points to reach 77,261.73, while the 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 203.6 points to 23,978.70, reflecting improved investor sentiment after recent market weakness.

The rally was largely driven by gains in banking counters, which carry significant weight in the indices. Investors showed renewed interest in the sector, expecting stable earnings and improved asset quality. This buying momentum helped offset earlier losses and pushed markets into positive territory.

Global market trends also played a crucial role in the rebound. Positive performances across Asian and US markets boosted confidence among domestic investors. When global peers show stability, it often encourages participation in emerging markets like India, contributing to upward momentum.

Additionally, selective buying was seen in other sectors, as investors took advantage of lower valuations following recent declines. Market participants remained cautious but optimistic, balancing risk with opportunity. Key factors such as inflation concerns, crude oil prices, and foreign institutional investor activity continue to influence trading patterns.

Despite the early gains, analysts suggest that markets may remain volatile in the near term due to global uncertainties. Sustained growth will depend on consistent economic indicators and corporate earnings performance.

Overall, the rebound highlights the resilience of Indian markets, with banking stocks once again acting as a key driver of recovery and investor confidence.

TCS Q4 profit rises 12% on strong growth

MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services reported a strong performance in the March quarter, posting a 12.22% rise in net profit at ₹13,718 crore compared to the same period last year. The growth was supported by higher revenues, improved margins, and steady deal wins across key global markets.

Revenue from operations increased 9.64% year-on-year to ₹70,698 crore in Q4, reflecting broad-based demand across industries and geographies.

For the full fiscal year, revenue also showed steady growth, indicating resilience despite global macroeconomic challenges and uncertainty in technology spending.

The company's operating margin expanded to 25.3%, up from 24.2% a year earlier, driven by better operational efficiency and cost management. TCS also signed new deals worth USD 12 billion during the quarter, with strong contributions from North America and the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) segment.

Consumer durables sector hit by weak demand pressures

Consumer durables growth remains weak as demand slows and rising costs squeeze margins, though select segments continue showing limited resilience and stability

NEW DELHI

HDFC Securities has reported that the Indian consumer durables sector is witnessing muted growth due to slowing demand and rising input costs, leading to pressure on profitability across companies.

According to the brokerage, demand remained subdued across most consumer durables categories in the recent quarter. Factors such as unseasonal weather conditions, a high base effect from last year, and delayed seasonal demand contributed to weaker sales performance. Cooling products like air conditioners, fans, and coolers were particularly impacted due to a delayed summer and irregular weather patterns.

At the same time, rising commodity prices have increased input costs, putting additional pressure on margins. Companies in the sector are expected to report only modest revenue growth, but profitability is likely to decline as they struggle to fully pass on higher costs to consumers.

However, the report highlights some areas of resilience. Televisions are expected to perform better due to event-led demand, while kitchen appliances are seeing steady adoption driven by changing consumer preferences. Segments such as washing machines, refrigerators, and water purifiers are expected to remain relatively stable.

Despite near-term challenges, structural drivers like rising urbanisation, premiumisation of products, and deeper market penetration are expected to support long-term growth in the sector. Still, analysts caution that recovery visibility remains limited in the short term, and sustained demand revival will depend on broader economic stability and easing cost pressures.

Overall, the outlook for consumer durables remains cautious, with weak demand conditions and margin stress weighing on performance even as selective segments continue to show pockets of strength.

BAJAJ LOAN TENURE

Bajaj finance extends loan repayment tenure to 108 months

PUNE

Bajaj Finance Limited has introduced a major update to its personal loan offering by extending the maximum repayment tenure to up to 108 months, or 9 years. The move is aimed at giving borrowers greater flexibility in managing monthly instalments and improving overall affordability of credit. According to reports, the revised structure allows customers to choose repayment periods ranging from 12 months to 108 months, depending on their income levels and financial planning needs. The longer tenure is expected to reduce monthly EMI burdens, making it easier for borrowers to handle household expenses alongside loan repayments.

The change is particularly significant in the personal loan segment, where demand has remained strong in recent years. By offering extended repayment options, the company aims to attract a wider set of customers seeking unsecured credit for medical expenses, weddings, travel, or emergency funding.

Industry experts note that while longer tenures improve short-term cash flow for borrowers, they may also lead to higher overall interest payments over time. Customers are therefore advised to carefully evaluate repayment plans before opting for extended durations.

The lender has been steadily expanding its digital lending ecosystem, with quick approval processes and simplified documentation continuing to be key features of its loan products.

Overall, the update reflects a growing trend in India's retail lending space, where financial institutions are increasingly focusing on flexible repayment structures to support rising consumer credit demand while maintaining affordability and accessibility.

Young stars shine as Lucknow snatches victory

Sunil Gavaskar praised "fearless prodigies" Mukul Choudhary and Ayush Badoni for leading Lucknow Super Giants to a thrilling victory.

NEW DELHI

Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has hailed young stars Mukul Choudhary and Ayush Badoni as "fearless prodigies" after their stunning performances led Lucknow Super Giants to a thrilling win. The duo's brave batting secured a three-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in a final-ball cliffhanger at Eden Gardens.

Chasing a target of 182, Lucknow faced a sudden collapse after a steady start. However, Ayush Badoni stabilized the innings with a mature 54 off 34 balls. Gavaskar noted that Badoni's knock was "underrated," praising the youngster's ability to handle pressure despite a tough spell from spinner Sunil Narine. Badoni's leadership experience with Delhi shone through, keeping the team's hopes alive during the middle overs. The real fireworks came from Mukul Choudhary, who smashed an unbeaten 54 from just 27 deliveries. Choudhary's explosive cameo included a "helicopter shot" that reminded Gavaskar of MS Dhoni's iconic style. The young wicket-keeper showed immense confidence, even turning down singles to keep the strike and finish the game himself. "What I love about the IPL is seeing fresh talent step up," Gavaskar remarked. He highlighted how Choudhary, usually a middle-order batter for Rajasthan in domestic cricket, transitioned seamlessly to the big stage. While international stars often lead the way, Gavaskar believes these "fearless prodigies" are the ones truly making the difference in tight finishes. Lucknow now heads home to face Gujarat Titans and aiming for their third win in a row.

RCB favourites to defend their cricket title

FARIDABAD

Former Indian captain Anjum Chopra names defending champions RCB as favorites for 2026, citing their balanced squad and early-season momentum in pursuit of a historic second title.

Former Indian captain Anjum Chopra believes Royal Challengers Bengaluru are strong favourites to keep their crown this season. After winning their first championship in 2025 by defeating Punjab Kings, the team is now aiming to join the elite ranks of repeat winners like Mumbai and Chennai.

Chopra emphasized that consistency is the secret ingredient for any team hoping to reach the playoffs. She noted that RCB has transformed into one of the most balanced and organized squads in the league. This shift follows their historic victory last year at the Narendra Modi Stadium, which ended a nearly two-decade wait for a trophy. The team has carried that winning momentum into the new season with great energy.

Currently, RCB sits third on the points table after winning their first two matches. Their strong net run rate suggests they are playing even better than they did during their championship run. Chopra pointed out that starting the tournament with such confidence often separates the champions from the rest of the pack.

However, the competition remains fierce. Punjab Kings, last year's runners-up, are also in excellent form. They currently hold the second spot in the standings with five points, fueled by the confidence of their recent final appearance. While Chopra admits a new champion could always emerge, she insists that RCB's disciplined approach makes them the team to beat.

Fans are now watching closely to see if Bengaluru can truly build a new cricket dynasty.

Zimbabwe women to make historic Pakistan debut

LAHORE

Cricket fans in Pakistan are gearing up for a special moment next month. For the first time ever, Zimbabwe's women's cricket team is flying in for a bilateral series. This historic six-match tour isn't just about winning; it is a vital chance for both teams to prepare for the T20 World Cup happening in England this June.

The entire series will take place at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi. The visitors are scheduled to touch down on April 29 to get used to the local conditions before the first ball is bowled. For Pakistan, this home series kicks off a very busy summer. Once the Zimbabwe matches wrap up, the squad will head to Ireland for a three-way tournament against the Irish and the West Indies. These games are essential because Pakistan has been placed in a "Group of Death" at the World Cup, where they must face giants like India, Australia, and South Africa.

Local organizers hope the "Karachi fortress" will give the home team the confidence they need. As women's cricket gains massive popularity in the region, this series stands as a symbol of growth and international friendship on the pitch.

MATCH TYPE	DATE	WHY IT MATTERS
3 One Day Internationals	May 3 – May 9	Part of the ICC Championship & Pakistan needs points to stay in the top five.
3 T20 Internationals	May 12 – May 15	Crucial practice for the upcoming World Cup in England.

India coach regrets missed chances against Indonesia

NEW DELHI

India's hopes in the Billie Jean King Cup took a hit, after a 0-2 loss to Indonesia. Despite a spirited performance at the DLTA Complex, head coach Vishal Uppal described the result as a "day of missed chances." He emphasized that failing to convert key moments cost the hosts a victory.

The day began with a late change in the schedule, but Uppal insisted that facing Indonesia instead of Mongolia was not an excuse. In the opening match, Vaishnavi Adkar fought through a grueling three-set battle against Priska Madelyn Nugroho. Although she played valiantly, she eventually lost 7-6, 6-7, 6-3. Uppal noted that winning this first match would have shifted the pressure onto the visitors.

In the second singles match, Sahaja Yamalapalli struggled against world number 40 Janice Tjen, losing 6-2, 6-1. Uppal pointed out that playing at this elite level requires high consistency and fewer unforced errors. Even in the doubles match, India's pair of Rutuja Bhosale and Ankita Raina felt the sting of regret after letting five set points slip away in the second set. Despite the setback, Uppal remains optimistic about the future.

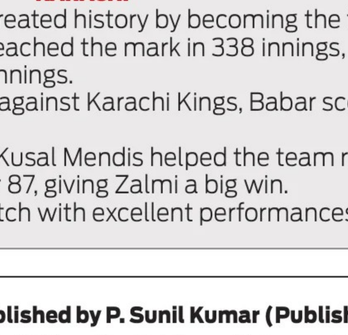
Mukul's journey from hardship to cricket stardom

KOLKATA

After powering the Lucknow Super Giants to a breathtaking victory over Kolkata Knight Riders, breakout star Mukul Choudhary opened up about the difficult road that led him to the spotlight. Named Player of the Match for his unbeaten 54, Choudhary's performance was the culmination of a dream that began in the face of financial struggle.

The young batter started his journey at age 12 in Jhunjhunu. With few training facilities nearby, he was forced to move to Jaipur to refine his skills. Driven by his father's unwavering belief, Choudhary even spent months in Gurugram to master the evolving T20 format. He recalled a pivotal Under-19 match against Uttar Pradesh as the moment his family realized he could truly make it as a professional.

In the high-pressure environment of the IPL, Choudhary remains remarkably grounded. "I treat pressure as an opportunity, not a burden," he explained after the match. This calm mindset was evident at Eden Gardens, where he refused to panic during a tense chase of 182. Alongside teammate Ayush Badoni, he navigated a chaotic final over to clinch the game on the very last ball.



For Choudhary, the win was about more than just points on the table, it was a tribute to his father's sacrifices. His explosive hitting and "helicopter shots" have quickly made him a fan favorite. As Lucknow celebrates another win, Mukul stands as a powerful reminder that perseverance can turn humble beginnings into superstardom.

Father's sacrifice powers Mukul's IPL heroics

Rising cricketer Mukul Choudhary shared an emotional story after his match-winning performance in IPL 2026. Playing for Lucknow Super Giants, he scored an unbeaten 54 runs to secure a thrilling win against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens. Choudhary revealed that his father gave up preparing for the Rajasthan Administrative Service to support his cricket dream. Coming from a poor family, his father worked hard and later enrolled him in a cricket academy at age 12. Despite limited facilities, Choudhary stayed determined and improved his skills. He now trains in Jaipur and aims to become a reliable finisher. Inspired by MS Dhoni, he hopes to guide his team to more victories in the tournament ahead.

KOLKATA STILL CONFIDENT DESPITE RECENT HEARTBREAKING DEFEAT

KOLKATA

Star player Rovman Powell insists that Kolkata Knight Riders remain hopeful about their season despite suffering their third loss of the year.

Following a nail-biting defeat against Lucknow Super Giants at Eden Gardens, Powell told reporters that the team still holds the keys to their own destiny in the tournament.

The match was a classic thriller that went down to the very last delivery. Kolkata set a competitive target, but Lucknow managed to chase down 182 runs to win by three wickets.

The comeback was fueled by brilliant half-centuries from young talents Ayush Badoni and Mukul Choudhary.

Powell admitted the result was disappointing but noted that playing such close games proves the team is still competing at a high level.

Reviewing the performance, Powell suggested that Kolkata's bowlers could have adjusted their tactics sooner.

He specifically mentioned that the team struggled to contain Mukul Choudhary, who smashed 54 runs off just 27 balls. Powell felt the bowlers relied too heavily on short deliveries, which Choudhary handled with ease.

"We need to change our plans faster when a batter gets comfortable," Powell explained during the post-match talk.

Despite the setback, the mood in the locker room remains positive. With many games left in the schedule, the squad is focusing on sharpening their bowling strategy and maintaining their batting form. Powell believes that if the players keep working hard, the results will shift in their favor. Kolkata fans are now looking for a big bounce-back performance soon.

Rovman Powell keeps Kolkata Knight Riders hopeful despite narrow defeat this season

Babar Azam smashes record and sets new benchmark

KARACHI

Pakistan star Babar Azam created history by becoming the fastest to score 12,000 T20 runs. He reached the mark in 338 innings, beating Chris Gayle's record of 343 innings.

Playing for Peshawar Zalmi against Karachi Kings, Babar scored an unbeaten 87 runs.

His strong partnership with Kusal Mendis helped the team reach 246.

Karachi were later all out for 87, giving Zalmi a big win.

Bowlers dominated the match with excellent performances.

Hasaranga injury shocks LSG ahead IPL season

LUCKNOW

Wanindu Hasaranga has been ruled out of IPL 2026, dealing a big blow to Lucknow Super Giants. The Sri Lankan all-rounder is still recovering from a hamstring injury suffered earlier this year and failed to meet fitness requirements. Team officials confirmed he will miss the entire season and are preparing to name a replacement soon. The franchise is expected to announce a new player within two days. Hasaranga was bought for the season but could not join the squad, leaving a key gap in the team's bowling lineup.

CSK seek first win amid rising pressure

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings face mounting pressure as they hunt for their first win against Delhi Capitals. Openers Sanju Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad must deliver after three straight losses.

The team has struggled in both batting and bowling, raising concerns early in the season. The absence of Dewald Brevis has affected balance, though he may return soon. Meanwhile, there is still uncertainty over MS Dhoni, who is recovering from injury. CSK will look to regroup and stay strong.

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